

RUSS OLSON VOLUME 18

TWIN CITY RAPID TRANSIT CO.

MINNETONKA & WHITE BEAR NAVIGATION CO.

Description

Parks and Hotel

Sub-Divisions Within This Volume

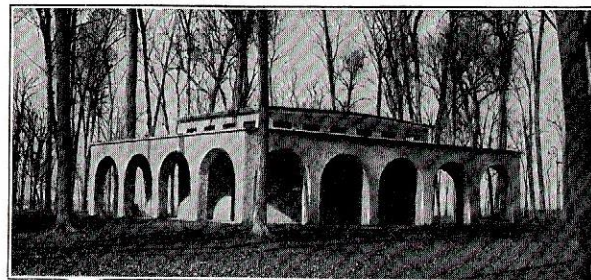
- Contents of the Front Pocket
- Big Island Park
- Tonka Bay Hotel
- Wildwood Park

CONTENTS OF FRONT POCKET

Picture Story of Beautiful Big Island Park—The Twin Cities' Ideal Picnic Resort

WHERE IS BIG ISLAND PARK?

BIG ISLAND PARK, 65 acres in extent, lies in the large part of "Lower" Lake Minnetonka, 2 miles distant from Excelsior, the main terminus of "The Great White Way" Electric Line from the Twin Cities. The Park is reached from Excelsior by a pleasant little voyage on the big, new, safe ferry boats, MINNEAPOLIS, SAINT PAUL, or MINNETONKA, which connect with cars at Excelsior Dock.



Concrete Kitchen at Park for Free Use of Picnic Parties



Ferry Boat Unloading Passengers from Twin Cities

Kitchens, Stoves, Water and Ice

NEAR the Tower are four modern, well furnished picnic kitchens, provided with ice and heated stoves on which picknickers may make coffee and warm their lunches free of cost. There are also varied amusement features furnishing inexpensive recreation.



A "Get-Together Picnic" at Big Island Park

A Charming Wooded Picnic Park

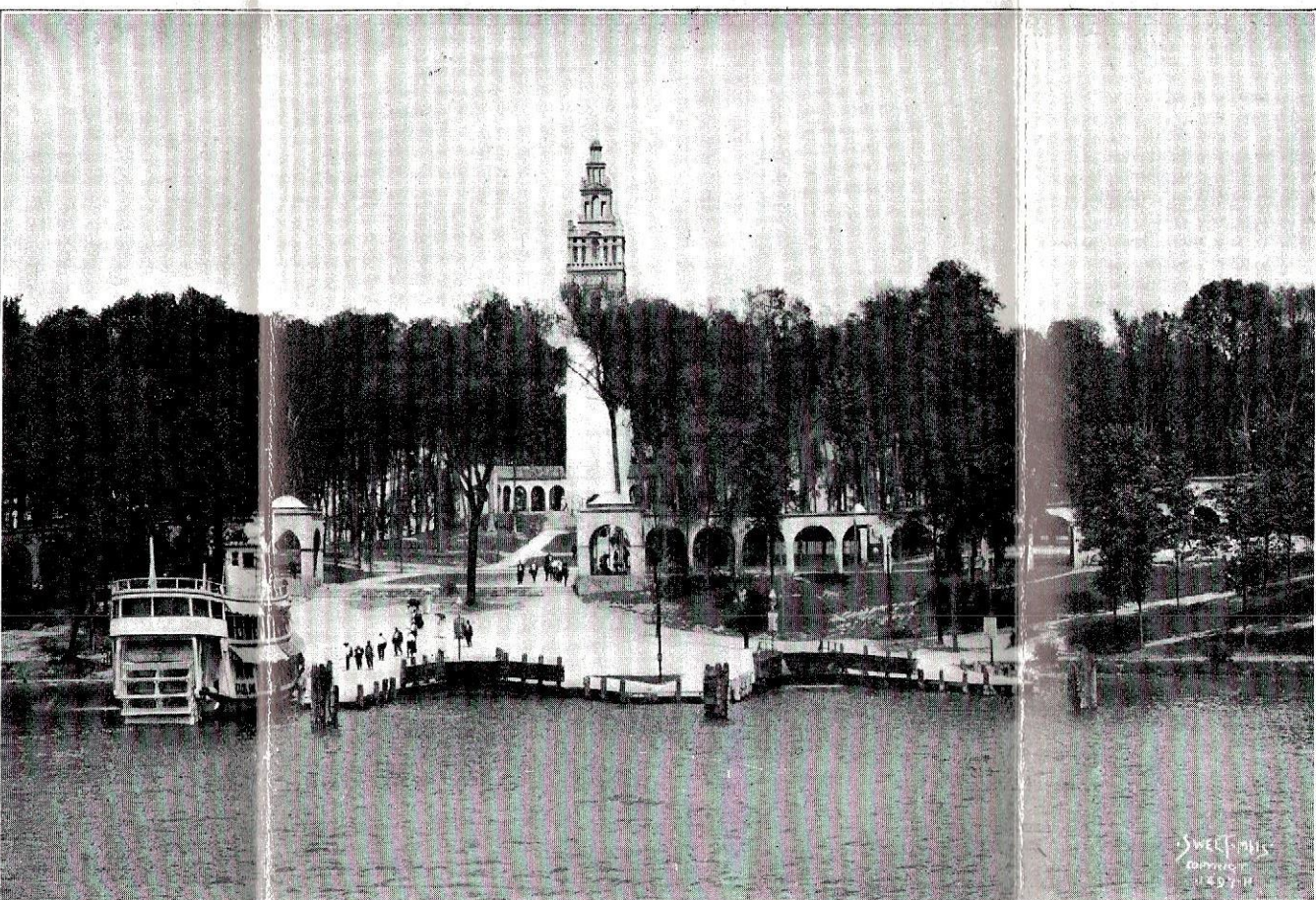
BIG ISLAND PARK abounds in beautifully wooded heights; shady, sylvan dales; rolling lawns; grand old trees; inviting nooks and picturesque ravines, all forming an ideal retreat for those who love the pleasure of a good, old fashioned family or party picnic, with all comforts one could ask.

Rest, Relaxation and Recreation

BIG ISLAND PARK is not only a Park beautiful in nature and a charming resort to welcome the tired, when the city's heat and noise is wearisome, but it offers just enough high grade entertainment features to make one's holiday merry. Rest, relaxation and recreation can be enjoyed under ideal conditions.

Spanish Mission Architecture

THE architecture used in all the buildings is the famous "Spanish Mission" style, exquisitely beautiful and attractive. Near the docks is the Electric Tower, a copy of the tower of Seville, Spain, 200 feet high, built of steel and concrete and studded with electric lights. This Tower furnishes the Island's water supply. At its base is a shelter house which affords fine views of the lake.



Ferry Boat Landing at Big Island Park Showing Electric Water Tower and Peristyle

LAKE MINNETONKA'S JOYS AND CHARMS

LAKE MINNETONKA is 20 miles long and 4 miles wide, with a charmingly irregular shore line of over 300 miles. Its channels, islands, and bays are continually revealing new vistas of dancing waters, and its shores are dotted with handsome summer homes, hotels, and club houses. The lake is alive with sailboats, launches, and steamers, all adding life and color to the beautiful scene.

Minnetonka is not only Minnesota's most beautiful lake—it is one of America's gems. Its splendid proportions, its picturesquely-broken shores make this glorious sheet of water worthy of superlative praise. Travel the world over, you'll never see any more enchanting.

Cottage life, hotel life, the joys of life close to nature, or the luxuries of life in palatial villas; the jolly life of the lake or the joyous life of the woods—it is all in this paradise of resorts. Truly it is "The Twin Cities' Shining Showplace." You'll never forget Lake Minnetonka, once you visit and know it.

BIG ISLAND PARK'S SPLENDID CASINO

A FEATURE of the Park which appeals strongly to the public, is the Casino on the Island's highest point, overlooking the lake and affording grand views in all directions through the great trees. This Casino is built entirely of concrete, steel and glass and is an architectural gem.

The Park's Attractions Summed Up

BRIEFLY, at Big Island Park—you can enjoy many amusement and recreation features; revel in the delights of a picnic party, or simply idle away some hours with the glancing, rippling surface of the lake all about you.

The Park's exceptional environment, its restful relief from summer heat, its hospitality and its fine facilities for all who come and go, place it as the favored of the Northwest's amusement resorts.

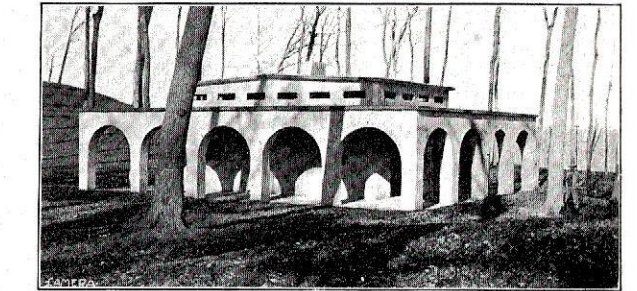
By day, it is a picture. By night, when an electric wand has touched it, it is fairyland. At night, when the big ferries, ablaze with electric lights, ply back and forth between the Park and Excelsior, they make pretty pictures on the dark waters.

Have Your Picnic There This Summer

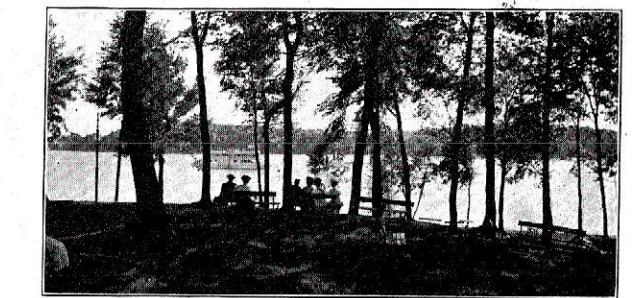
BIG ISLAND PARK is the most beautiful Picnic Park in all the Northwest. It has unexcelled facilities to entertain Lodge, Club, Sunday School, Society or picnics of any kind. Kitchens, toilet rooms, shelter houses, water supply, all include the latest improvements for comfort and convenience.

An Ideal Picnic Outing

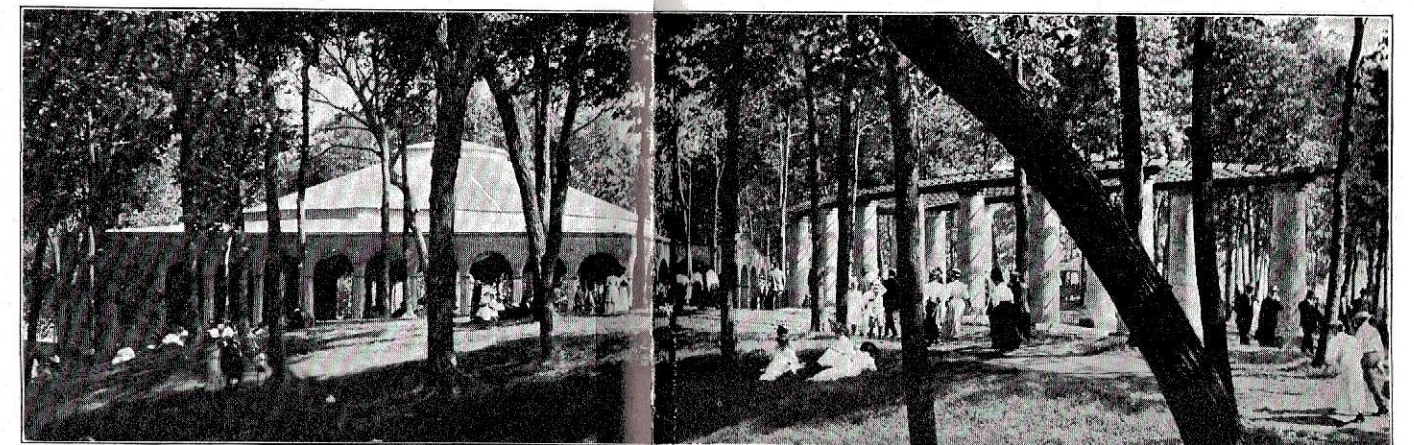
NO more ideal outing than this. A glorious Electric Car ride through a Meadow, Lake and Hill country from the Twin Cities to Excelsior, a 2-mile ferry boat trip to Big Island Park and a great day enjoying yourself at this most beautiful Resort before returning home in the evening.



Picnic Kitchen—Stoves, Water, Ice, Furnished Free



Beautiful "Point Charming"



A Picture Through the Trees. The Casino on the Left, the Pergola on the Right

The Famous Fleet of Lake Minnetonka Boats

The Newest, Safest, Fastest, Stanchest, BEST Boats' on "The Big Water"—An Even Dozen.

Express Boats

THE 6 fast Express propellers furnish rapid communication between Electric Car terminals on the Lake shore and all principal points on "Upper" as well as "Lower" Lake Minnetonka.

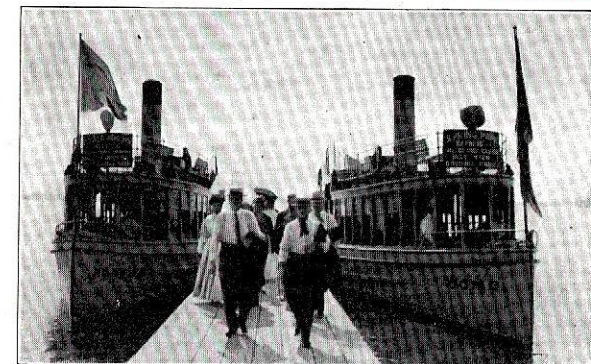
These Expresses embody the best and latest ideas for comfort, safety, speed, beauty.

They are named after cities and resorts on "Twin City Lines"—Como, Harriet, Hopkins, Minnetonka, Stillwater, White Bear.

They are each 70 feet long and 14 feet beam have torpedo sterns and are equipped with the finest machinery, insuring a speed of 12 to 15 miles an hour.

There are 4 Express routes with the round trips varying from 1 to 2 hours, and each has its own attractions. The courses of all the Expresses pass beautiful islands, handsome cottage colonies, picturesque channels, delightful bays and charming vistas of blue water everywhere.

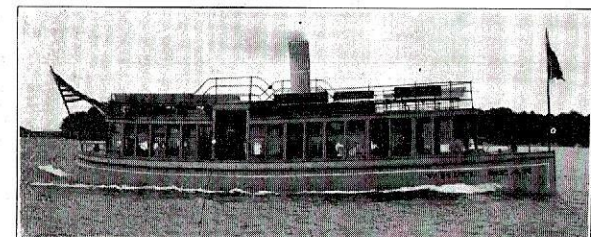
The fare between any 2 points on the same route is 10 cents. Thus, you can make a 1 or 2-hour round trip from Excelsior or Wildhurst, according to the route you select for 20 cents.



Express Boats HARRIET and COMO



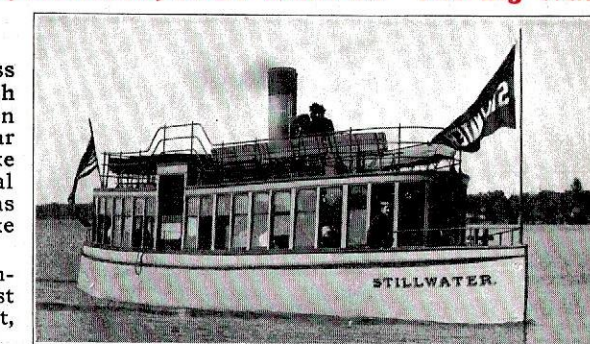
Express Boat HOPKINS



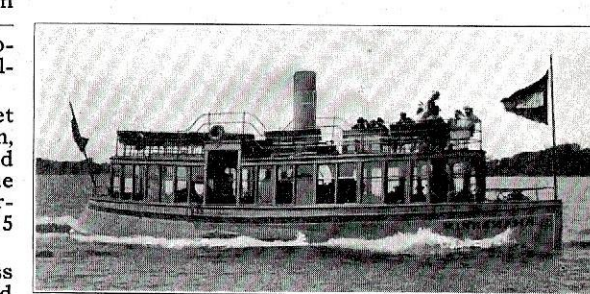
Express Boat WHITE BEAR



Ferry Boats MINNEAPOLIS and MINNETONKA



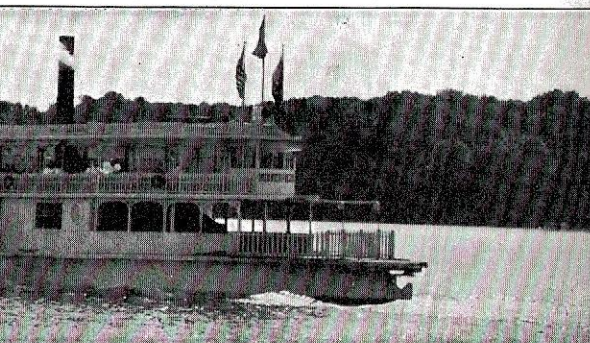
Express Boat STILLWATER



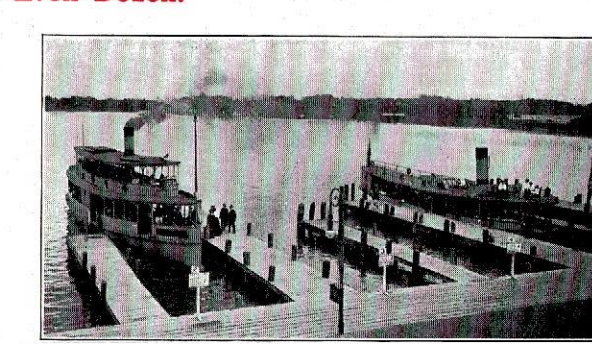
Express Boat MINNEHAHA



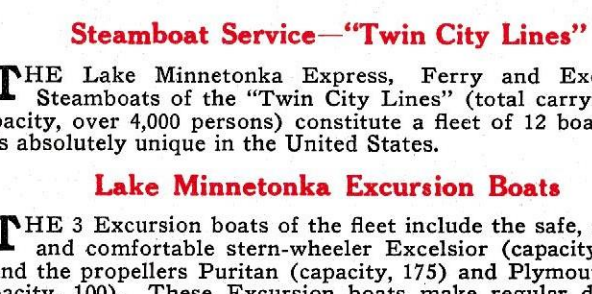
Ferry Boat SAINT PAUL



Excursion Boat EXCELSIOR



Excursion Boats PURITAN and PLYMOUTH



Steamboat Service—"Twin City Lines"

Lake Minnetonka Excursion Boats

THE 3 Excursion boats of the fleet include the safe, stanch, and comfortable stern-wheeler Excelsior (capacity, 225), and the propellers Puritan (capacity, 175) and Plymouth (capacity, 100). These Excursion boats make regular daily 3-hour panoramic tours of the "Upper" as well as the "Lower" lake. Round trip, 25 cents.

Lake Minnetonka Ferry Boats

THE 3 double-end, double-deck ferries, Minneapolis, Saint Paul, and Minnetonka, are each 142 feet long and 39 feet beam, with a capacity each of 800 passengers. They are new, having been built and put in service in 1907, after the latest models. They are comfortable, safe, and fast, and perform a "Shuttle" service between Excelsior Dock Station and Big Island Park, the company's beautiful new picnic and "Good Time Resort." Round trip, Excelsior to Big Island Park and return, including admission to Park, 10 cents. Free transfer to Ferries on car tickets from and to Twin Cities.

Boats Can Be Chartered

BOATS are open to charter to special excursion parties for day or night trips, at very reasonable rates. For information, please apply to the General Passenger Agent.



Excursion Boat EXCELSIOR

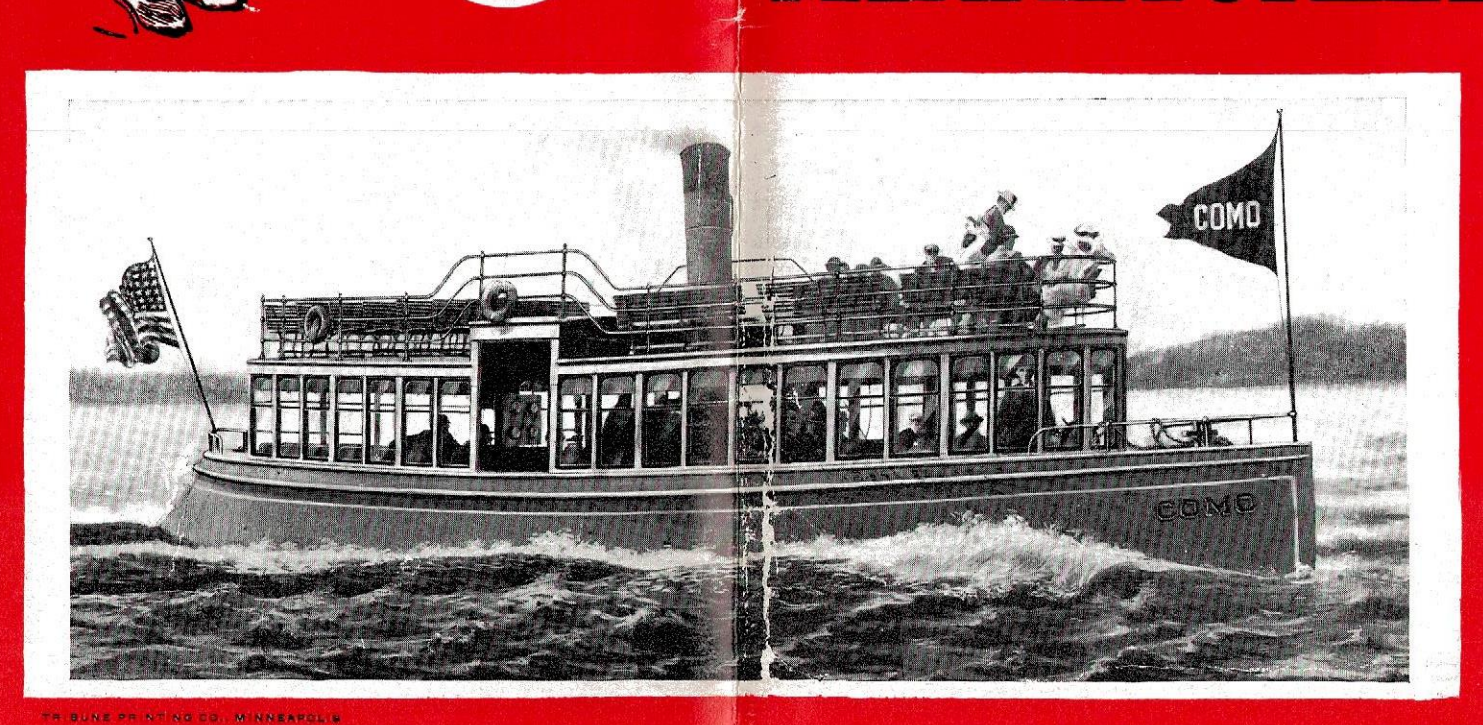
The Glorious Isle of Stateliest Trees, Loveliest Foliage, Greenest Grass, Clearest Water

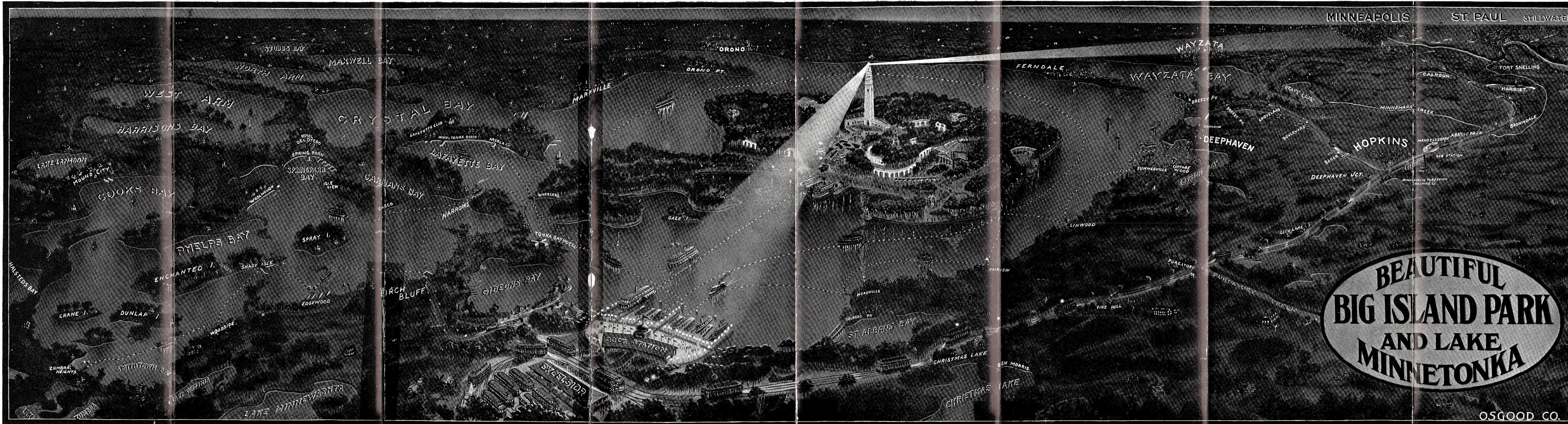


MOST FAMOUS LAKE OF THE NORTHWEST

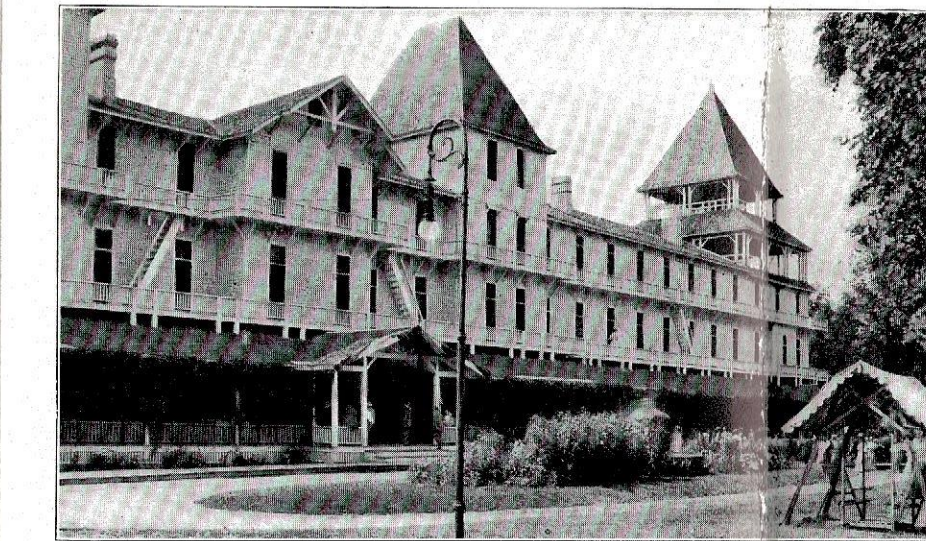
TWIN CITY LINES

BEAUTIFUL BIG ISLAND PARK LAKE MINNETONKA





TONKA BAY HOTEL, LAKE MINNETONKA



This reproduction of a 1908 era TCRT Lake Minnetonka brochure is an authentic souvenir of the now restored Como-Harriet line in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Last surviving segment of the once sprawling Twin City Rapid Transit Company electric streetcar and interurban railway network, it operates over the old right-of-way between Lakes Calhoun and Harriet during the summer months, and was restored to service as an operating educational museum in 1971 by the Minnesota Transportation Museum in co-operation with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. Car 1322, as shown below, is a sister car of the present day Como-Harriet car 1300 (built in 1908) and represents the configuration of TCRT cars as originally constructed in its St. Paul Snelling shops during the first decade of the present century.

REPRODUCTION BY H. M. SMYTH COMPANY, INC.

HOW TO GO TO LAKE MINNETONKA

FROM MINNEAPOLIS, take any Electric Train for Excelsior at Ticket Office and Waiting Room, 17 North 6th St. Transfer at Excelsior to Ferry Boat for Big Island Park. You can also board Train for Excelsior or transfer from local lines at 6th St., 7th St., 12th St., Douglas Ave., Groveland Ave., Lake St., Lake Harriet Station, or Lake Harriet "Loop."

Running time, "Ticket Office to the Park," 60 minutes.

"Ticket Office to the Hotel," 52 minutes.

Fare, "Ticket Office to the Park," including admission to the Park, each way, 25 cents. Or, 20 cents with transfer from any Minneapolis local line. Same rate to the Hotel.

FROM ST. PAUL, take any westbound "Selby-Lake" Car and transfer to Train for Excelsior at Hennepin Ave. and Lake St., Minneapolis, or take any "Como-Harriet," "Como-Hopkins" or St. Paul & Minneapolis Car and transfer to Train for Excelsior at 6th St., Minneapolis.

Fare, "St. Paul to Big Island Park," including admission to the Park, each way 30 cents. Or, 25 cents with transfer from any St. Paul local line. Same rate to the Hotel.

FOR any information as to rates for Picnics or Boat Excursions, please telephone, call on, or write to the General Passenger Agent, Hennepin Ave. and 11th St., Minneapolis. It will be a pleasure to answer your questions.

Telephones—Minneapolis, N. W. 4580—T. S. 3134.
St. Paul, N. W. 2616.

WILLARD J. HIELD,
Vice-Prest. and Gen'l Manager.

A. W. WARNOCK,
Gen'l Passenger Agent.



Standard Lake Minnetonka Electric Car. Length 46 feet, Seating Capacity 50 Passengers, 300 Horse Power.

1910

Summer was cooler and wetter than usual

1911

Another cold summer

Additional factor in the closing of
Big Island Park and Incha Bay Hotel

Wonderland Park

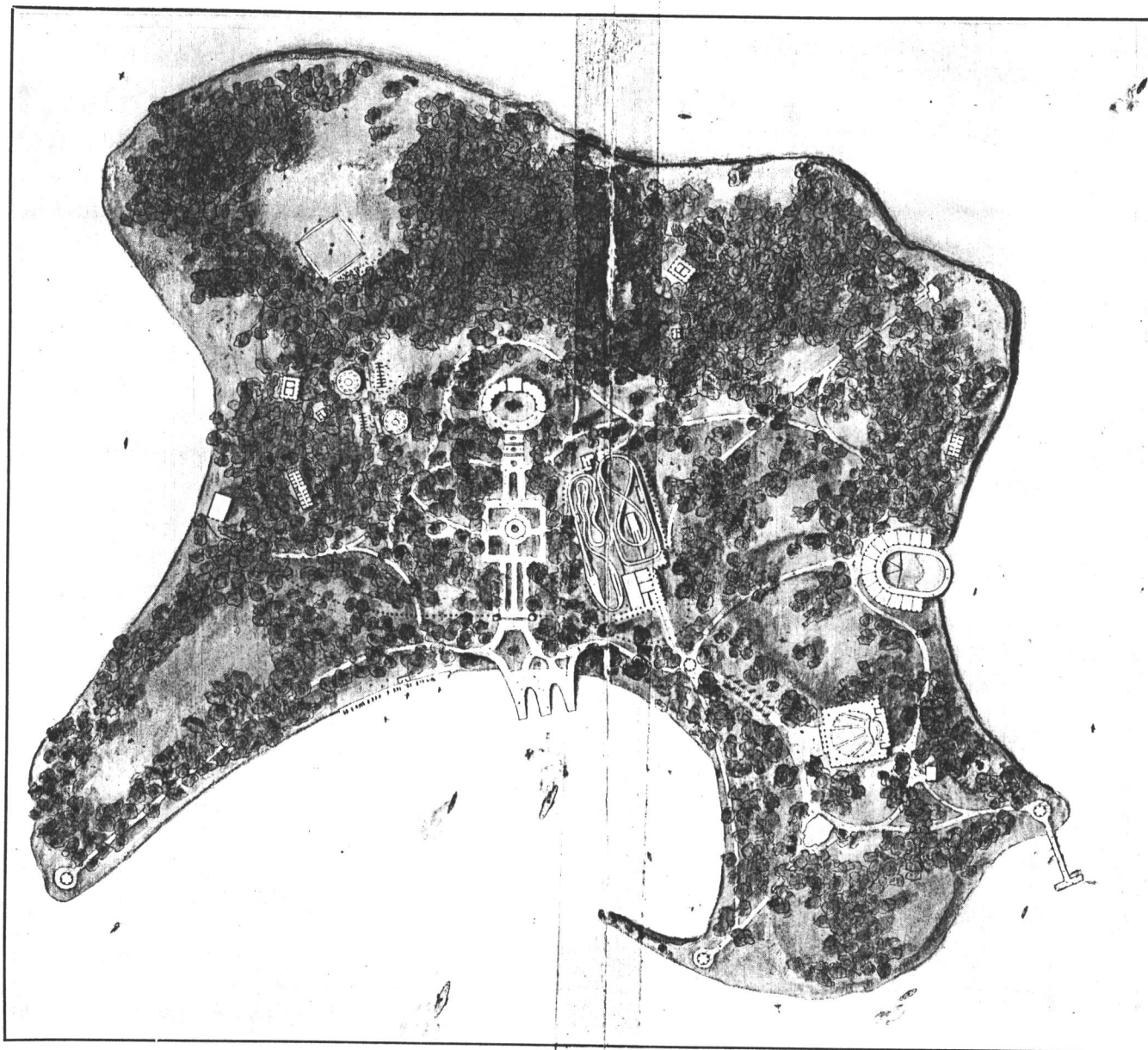
31st Ave & Lake St

1905-1911 7 years

50 Rowboats built by Moore Boat Works,
Wayzata, for Big Island Park

BIG ISLAND PARK

Detail Plan of Big Island Park



Have Your Picnic There This Summer

Drawn by Ray Buffington.

IT is the most beautiful picnic park in all the Northwest. It has unexcelled facilities to entertain Lodge, Club, Sunday School or Society picnics of any kind. Kitchens, toilet rooms, shelter houses, water supply, all include the best and latest improvements for comfort and convenience.

No better plan for an ideal outing than this: A glorious electric car ride through a Meadow, Lake and Hill country from the Twin Cities to Excelsior, a 2-mile ferry boat trip to Big Island Park and a day enjoying the loveliest picnic and amusement park in all the land before making the return trip home in the evening.

FOR any information as to rates and accommodations for picnics or for boat excursions or charters, please telephone, address or call on the General Passenger Agent, Hennepin Ave. and 11th St., Minneapolis. It will be a pleasure to answer your questions and reserve dates for you.

Minneapolis Telephones, N. W. 4580—T. S. 3134.
St. Paul Telephone, N. W. 2616.

WILLARD J. HIELD,
General Manager.

A. W. WARNOCK,
General Passenger Agent.

BIG ISLAND PARK

Lake Minnetonka

An 1884 publication reported that the island lay in the middle of the lake and contained about 300 or 400 acres. The lower end, 96 acres, was owned by W. B. Morse of Excelsior who had built there several buildings. A portion of the island belonged to James J. Hill, of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad. The upper end had been subdivided and platted a few years previous and was then known as Island Park. On Island Park were cottages owned by the following Minneapolis people: Charles F. Wheeler, D. M. Clough, Dr. S. M. Spaulding, H. J. G. Croswell, L. J. Skinner and Mrs. Lincoln.

For a period of time it was known as Morse Island.

In August 1905 the Minneapolis & St. Paul Suburban Railway purchased 65 acres of land on Big Island for the purpose of establishing an amusement park and picnic grounds. Surveying, engineering, clearing and grubbing began in 1905.

An informal opening of the park took place on May 27th, 1906, with service provided by five streetcars per hour from Minneapolis to Excelsior, using one ferry boat and two express boats for transportation to and from the island. Access to Big Island Park was by ferry boat only as it was about two miles out in the lake from Excelsior. The park officially opened August 5, 1906, when partially complete. The opening was so successful that improvements were announced for 1907. Most of the construction work was completed from October 1906 thru June 1907.

A power transmission line was extended by submarine cable to a substation on the island. Thousands of electric lights were strung around the buildings and in the trees. A well 400 ft. deep with 8" casing was drilled. The water tower was a 200 ft. high spire built of steel and concrete (a copy of a tower in Seville, Spain), with a 35,000 gallon water tank. The tower was furnished with powerful electric spotlights to light up the lake at night as well as being studded with electric lights and was thus aptly named The Electric Tower. At the base of the tower was a shelter house affording fine views of the lake. Near the tower were constructed four modern concrete picnic kitchens, all of Spanish Mission architecture, provided with stoves, running water, ice and storage. Picnic parties could reserve these kitchens in advance; ice and fuel were furnished free. A Music Casino, also of Spanish Mission architecture, constructed of concrete, steel and glass, containing a screened reflecting shell and large sloping seating arrangement, was opened in June 1907 for giving band concerts. Trellised arbours (concrete pillars supporting overhead wood trellises), called pergolas, were used for the major walkways through the park.

Several amusement features were also constructed: Old Mill, Roller Coaster, Scenic Ride to Yellowstone Park, Carousel, Fun Factory and Pennyodeon. Other features mentioned in other sources were: "merry maze", laughing gallery, old mill (enchanted river), dance pavilion, aquarium, and aviary (2,000 birds, foreign and domestic). The construction cost records appended also include references to various amusement features.

Company promotional literature stated that the park abounded in beautifully wooded heights, shady sylvan dales, rolling lawns, grand old trees, inviting nooks and ravines; all forming an ideal retreat for those who loved the pleasure of a good old-fashioned family or party picnic with all the comforts one could ask. Not only was the park beautiful in nature, and a charming resort to welcome the tired when the city's heat and noise became wearisome, but it offered just enough high-grade entertainment features to make one's holiday merry. Rest, relaxation, and recreation could be enjoyed under ideal conditions.

The finest bands and orchestras were hired to give twice-a-day concerts in the casino. Some of these were: Arthur Pryor's Band, The Banda Rossa (The Royal Italian Band), Minneapolis Orpheum Theatre Orchestra "The Imperials" (25 men), and the Lindquist Ladies Symphony Orchestra (24 ladies).

For the 1907 U. S. Census the company reported its investment at \$342,459 with average annual patronage of 500,000 persons. The company's General Passenger Agent wrote an article for the Electric Railway Journal after the 1907 season had been completed. A copy of the article is appended which gives an excellent first-hand account of the facilities and attractions.

The full effects of the 1907 financial panic were first felt in 1908 and felt most keenly during 1908 and 1909. The appended financial statements show the effect on the park's operations.

In the 12-31-1910 corporate reorganization the Minneapolis & St. Paul Suburban Railway conveyed the following to the newly organized Minnetonka & White Bear Navigation Company. Real estate 57.7 acres as itemized (including sketch map) in the Steamboat chapter. The facilities were also itemized.

Description	Size	Construction
Electric Light and Water Tower	25' x 25' at the base and 186' high	steel frame; tile and cement plaster.
Music Hall	126' x 161'	1-story; steel frame, tile.
Amusement Building	54'6" x 78'	1-story; tile.
Pavilion	62'6" x 203'	1-story; frame.
Two Women's Toilets	20' x 20' each	1-story; tile.
1 Men's Toilet	36' x 27' with 9' x 13' ell	1-story; tile.
Women's Dormitory	54' x 28'	2-story; tile.
Men's Dormitory	85' x 28'	2-story; tile.
Staff Kitchen	69' x 20' with 20' x 20' ell	1-story; frame.
Two Picnic Kitchens	29' x 20' each	1-story; tile.
Figure 8 Roller Coaster		frame.
Band Stand	15' x 15'	1½ story; frame.
Caretaker's Cottage	26' x 18'	1-story; tile.
Pump House	7'6" x 7'6"	1-story; tile.
Ice House	40' x 50'	1-story; frame.
with attached Horse Barn	28'6" x 18'6"	1-story; frame.
Boat House	20' x 11'	1-story; frame.
48 Rowboats		

The worsening financial results apparently convinced TCRT management that continued operation of Big Island Park and the Tonka Bay Hotel was hopeless. The Park and Hotel were permanently closed August 28, 1911. The official notice was not made until February 1912.

After closing of the Park, the dismantling process was rather slow. The following transactions were found in the accounting records.

1912	Fifteen rowboats sold.
1913	Electrical equipment was removed from the substation; \$9,799 was credited to the property account.
1914	300 chairs and one second-hand Andrews boiler sold.
1915	Lumber from the Roller Coaster, 300 chairs and 10 park benches sold. The power transmission cable was removed, \$4,299 being received from its sale in 1916. \$130 was expended on painting during the year.
1916	500 chairs and 130 benches sold.

1917	Scrap pipe, tile and arches were sold. The telephone cable to Linwood was sold to the Tri-State Telephone & Telegraph Company.
1918	Scrap and one boiler were sold. The Water Tower and Music Casino were sold for scrap; \$2,741 net proceeds were received.
1919	Ice House and Cook Shanty sold to the State Game Protective Association.
1920	Old tile was sold.
1924	Scrap metal was sold in July; \$422 net of labor cost for dismantling was received.

In the fall of 1915 Frank D. Blair with support of the Minneapolis Branch of the Minnesota Game Protective League started a game farm on the island. M&WBN Co. donated land for the project, gave old lumber for construction of hatching and rearing pens, and permitted free use of its empty buildings. Game bred included prairie chickens (pinnated grouse); 1400 quail one year; and Chinese ring-necked pheasants were introduced successfully. Members of the MGPL financed the enterprise until May 1917 when the State Game & Fish Commission took over, leaving Blair in charge. Soon Big Island became too small and the game farm moved to the Upper Lake near Mound.

An offer for purchase of the remaining property for \$60,000 made in March 1916 was never consummated. A proposed contract made in April 1919 for sale of the property to the Interurban Development Company was never completed; earnest money of \$1,000 was forfeited. All of the real estate on Big Island owned by the M&WBN Co. was sold June 1, 1941, to the Board of Governors of Big Island Veterans Camp for \$25,000 under a contract for deed running from June 1, 1941 through June 1, 1951. The original water well was still functioning at the time of the sale.

Big Island Park

- The important buildings and general layout were designed by Leroy Buffington.
- The Giralda tower in Seville was the inspiration for the Electric Tower.
- Construction began in late January 1906 with the Ice House built by A. B. Peterson of Deephaven.
- There were two Picnic Kitchens buildings; each was divided into two parts. This was the reason for mentioning four picnic kitchens.
- The Artesian Well was 376 feet deep.
- A Ballpark, cost \$900, was built in 1909. (Included in Other Costs on my worksheet.)
- The *Minnetonka Record* editorialized that the park was too big for present conditions, too far away from the Twin Cities, and cost too much to reach it. "The people who would have been glad to come could not afford it, and the people who could and did come were not numerous enough to support so extensive an enterprise."

BIG ISLAND PARK						
RESULTS OF OPERATIONS						
					PROFIT	Operating
YEAR			INCOME	EXPENSE	(LOSS)	Ratio
1907			44,779	48,783	(4,004)	109%
1908			33,777	37,839	(4,062)	112%
1909			30,428	30,588	(160)	101%
1910			25,256	28,452	(3,196)	113%
1911			9,237	12,494	(3,257)	135%
	Subtotals		143,477	158,156	(14,679)	110%
1912			100	867	(767)	
1913			121	1,252	(1,131)	
1914			400	2,069	(1,669)	
1915				1,238	(1,238)	
1916				956	(956)	
1917				1,230	(1,230)	
1918				106	(106)	
1919	Land Sale Option Defaulted		1,000		1,000	
1920				493	(493)	
1921				366	(366)	
1923				38	(38)	
1926				105	(105)	
1928				10	(10)	
1932	Storehouse Bills			8	(8)	
	Totals		145,098	166,894	(21,796)	

BIG ISLAND PARK		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1907	Income					523	8,922	21,307	11,575	2,377	45		4,004	48,753
	Expense					125	10,456	23,969	11,186	2,431	456	147	12	48,782
	Profit(Loss)					398	(1,534)	(2,662)	389	(54)	(411)	(147)	3,992	(29)
1908	Income				71	11	8,111	13,141	10,274	2,157	10	1	4,062	37,838
	Expense	107	187	438	281	1,912	10,718	12,039	9,116	2,053	545	199	244	37,839
	Profit(Loss)	(107)	(187)	(438)	(210)	(1,901)	(2,607)	1,102	1,158	104	(535)	(198)	3,818	(1)
1909	Income					24	7,288	12,439	9,277	1,221	46	5	160	30,460
	Expense	176	190	372	469	4,380	7,308	7,048	6,705	1,849	739	1,008	216	30,460
	Profit(Loss)	(176)	(190)	(372)	(469)	(4,356)	(20)	5,391	2,572	(628)	(693)	(1,003)	(56)	-
1910	Income					24	7,565	10,508	5,170	651	16	700	3,196	27,830
	Expense	234	389	289	485	3,756	6,027	8,158	6,622	1,225	466	193	256	28,100
	Profit(Loss)	(234)	(389)	(289)	(485)	(3,732)	1,538	2,350	(1,452)	(574)	(450)	507	2,940	(270)
1911	Income					260	2,688	3,682	1,192	122	6			7,950
	Expense	118	319	169	327	1,642	2,159	5,518	1,484	343	133	101	143	12,456
	Profit(Loss)	(118)	(319)	(169)	(327)	(1,382)	529	(1,836)	(292)	(221)	(127)	(101)	(143)	(4,506)
	1911 Expenses; Insurance:							1,285					135	

BIG ISLAND PARK EARNINGS, YEAR 1911.

Dancing,	\$ 22.50	
Row Boats,	670.80	
Gum slot machines - BIG ISLAND PARK,	36.57	
" " " - DOCKS & BOATS,	71.89	
Souvenir Studio,	6.89	
Parcel checks,	26.60	
" " - EXCELSIOR DOCKS,	17.90	
Refreshments, Lunch & Commissary, BIG ISLAND PARK,	5,760.65	
" " " EXCELSIOR DOCKS,	1,304.35	
Merchandise Discount - Refreshments, Lunch & Commissary - BIG ISLAND PARK,	25.82	
Telephone commission,	8.15	\$ 7,952.12

BIG ISLAND PARK EXPENSES, YEAR 1911.

Row Boats,	210.65	
Gum slot machines - BIG ISLAND PARK,	33.60	
" " " - DOCKS & BOATS,	61.20	
Refreshments, Lunch & Commissary - BIG ISLAND PARK,	3,939.89	
" " " - EXCELSIOR DOCKS,	1,074.46	
General,	3,748.32	
Grounds,	662.57	
Dancing,	22.00	\$ 9,752.69

Loss from Operation,

\$1,800.57

BIG ISLAND PARK					
ORIGINAL COST FROM THE CONSTRUCTION JOURNALS					
Opened 8-5-1906 partially complete. Most work was done Oct. 1906 thru Jun 1907.					
REAL ESTATE					
	Purchase Price		8-1905	20,000	
	Survey and Title Examination		8-1905	66	
	Clearing and Grubbing		1905-1907	20,656	
	Artesian Well		1906	1,103	
	Docks		1906	6,448	
					48,273
BUILDINGS					
	Water Tower		1906-1907	21,320	
	Pavilion		1906	8,839	
	Music Casino		1907	33,361	
	Picnic Kitchens (two)		1906	3,609	
	Men's Dormitory		1906-1907	4,087	
	Women's Dormitory		1906-1907	3,055	
	Cottage		1909	1,038	
	Ice House		1906	1,464	
	Walks, Arches and Drives		1906-1907	16,179	
					92,952
POWER					
	Substation Building and Equipment		1906-1907	22,626	
	(one M-G Set for Lighting \$17,343)				
	Cables, Conduits, Transmission Lines		1906-1907	20,297	
	(overhead and submarine)				
	Lighting and Power	\$16,936	1906-1907	15,539	
	Telephone System		1906	2,061	
					60,523
FURNISHINGS					
	Furniture and Fixtures		1907	4,183	
	Settees, Benches and Tables		1906	1,504	
	One #3 Spring Wagon		1910	135	
					5,822
AMUSEMENT FEATURES					
	Roller Coaster		1906	11,190	
	Mystic Chute		1906	9,190	
	Katzenjammer, Trip to New York and				
	Laughing Gallery		1906-1907	5,861	
	Carousel		1907	4,640	
	Yellowstone Park		1907	2,638	
	Changed to Picture Gallery		1909	286	
	Kinetoscope		1909	211	
	Hooligan Slide		1906	18	
	Rowboats, including Docks and Slides		1906	1,867	
					35,901
ENGINEERING and SUPERVISION			1906-1907	7,697	
COMMISSARY			1906-1907	(602)	
(Included food furnished construction crews offset by reimbursements for meals.)					7,095

MISCELLANEOUS CONSTRUCTION					
Labor			1906-1908	8,477	
Materials, Hardware, Tools, Supplies			1906-1909	6,108	
Freight, Express, Drays, Teams			1906-1908	649	
Steamer ACTE			1907	4	
Hauling and Towing by Capt. Johnson			1906	447	
Miscellaneous Services			1906-1907	95	
A. W. Hobart			1906	250	
Plastering Buildings			1906-1907	2,202	
Grass Seed, Vines, Shrubs			1906-1908	825	
24 Red and 24 Green Globes			1907	450	
Lumber for Temporary Band Stand			1906	150	
Build 20 Picnic Tables			1908	88	
Barnett Fixtures			1907	3,419	
Install Miscellaneous Features			1908	2,015	
(Aviary and Aquarium?)					
Additions to Laundry Building			1908	274	
Buffalo			1906	250	
3 Bear Cubs			1909	75	
53 Sheep purchased. Sold later.			1906	26	Net Cost
Horses and Harnesses			1907-1909	236	Net Cost
Meals furnished Construction Crews			1907-1908	1,999	
Sewers			1908	117	
Change Sewerage and Drainage			1908	431	
All Other				2,319	
(Sales of Cordwood 1906-1908 \$1,655)					
					30,906
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST					281,472

C O S T O F
SUB-STATION & EQUIPMENT
BIG ISLAND
TO DECEMBER 31-1913.

Labor & Material Account Buildings	3325	2,183.68
" " " Buildings & Fixtures	3112	60.13
Labor & Material Account Lighting	3113	17,576.57
" " " Overhead Lines	3170	316.03
" " " Electrical Equipment	3111	2,470.90
" " " Mechanical Equipment	3110	16.42
" " " O.H. Condrs	3171	<u>2.00</u>
		<u>22,625.73</u>

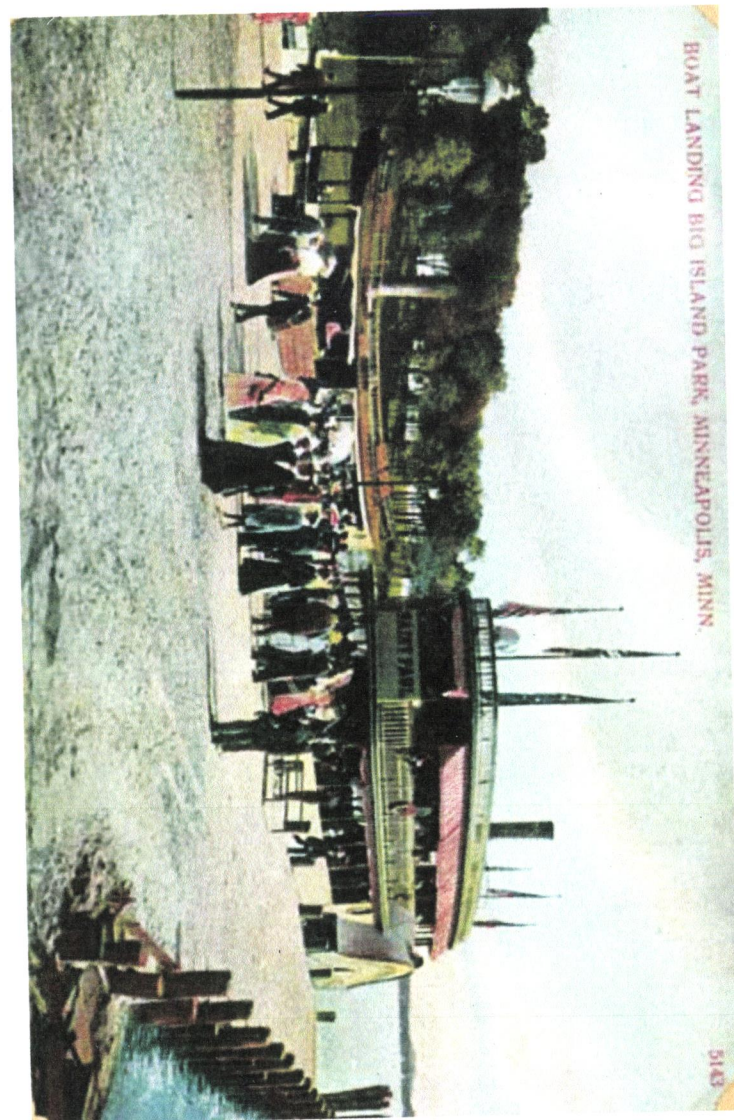


AMONG THE TREES AT BIG ISLAND
PARK, LAKE MINNETONKA, MINN.



10305

BIG ISLAND PARK, WHARVES, FERRY LANDING, LAKE MINNETONKA, MINN.



BOAT LANDING BIG ISLAND PARK, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

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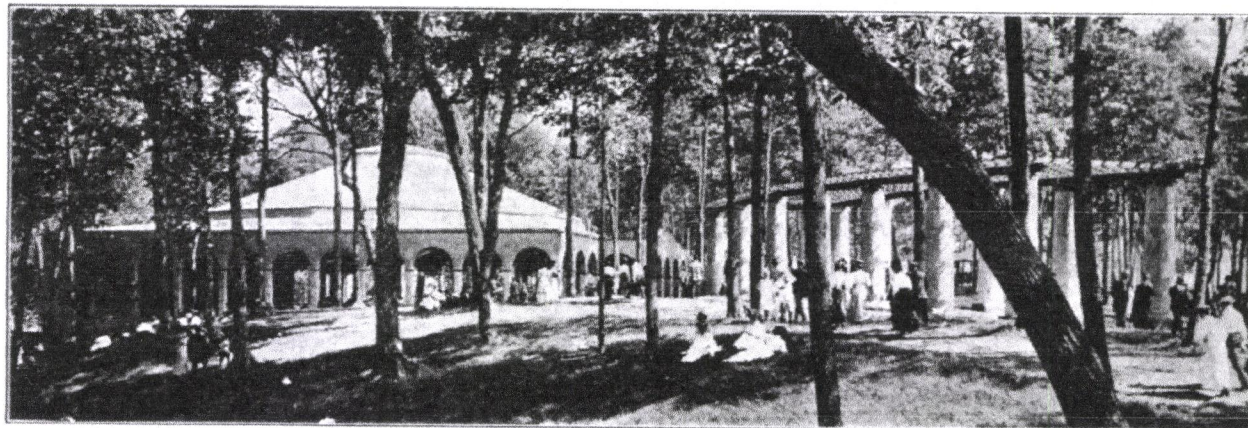
THE STORY OF BEAUTIFUL BIG ISLAND PARK AND LAKE MINNETONKA

BY A. W. WARNOCK,
General Passenger Agent Twin City Rapid Transit Company,
Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn.

Big Island Park, Lake Minnetonka's Resort Beautiful, really had its tryout during the season of 1907. For while the park was opened a short time during the latter part of

as a picnic resort and as a delightful objective for trips from Minneapolis and St. Paul over the two new "Twin City" electric lines. Thus, Big Island really came into its own when the electric lines were opened to the lake.

It is a difficult proposition to lay down a hard and fast rule for creating and operating a successful park. Conditions vary widely in different cases and each park must necessarily work out its own salvation. The geographical location of the park, the length of time necessary to reach



MUSIC CASINO AND PERGOLA, BIG ISLAND PARK

the season of 1906, there was no real definite knowledge of the place on the part of the public until the past year.

The history of Big Island Park is so unique and so many amusement managers as well as electric railway companies are watching its development that the story of our season for 1907 may prove interesting, and the facts are here given in response to an invitation of the STREET RAILWAY JOURNAL to tell how we got along last year.

For something more than forty years Big Island, located

it, the rate of fare and many other conditions are matters of such variation that in the last analysis each park's own success must be developed from its own experience.

Big Island Park is twenty miles from the city of Minneapolis and thirty miles from the city of St. Paul. I believe we have one of the most superb electric lines in the United States leading from the Twin Cities to Excelsior on Lake Minnetonka. We have double tracks of 80-lb. steel rail laid on a perfectly ballasted and graded roadbed, and over



A PICNIC PARTY AT BIG ISLAND PARK

in the larger part of lower Lake Minnetonka, and situated from the shore a distance varying from one-half to two miles, has been a particularly attractive isle of greenery for the many tourists who have visited the lake. However, its solitude was undisturbed and no attempt was made to prepare it for the picnicker or merry maker until 1905, when sixty-five acres of the most desirable part of the island were purchased by the "Twin City Lines" for development

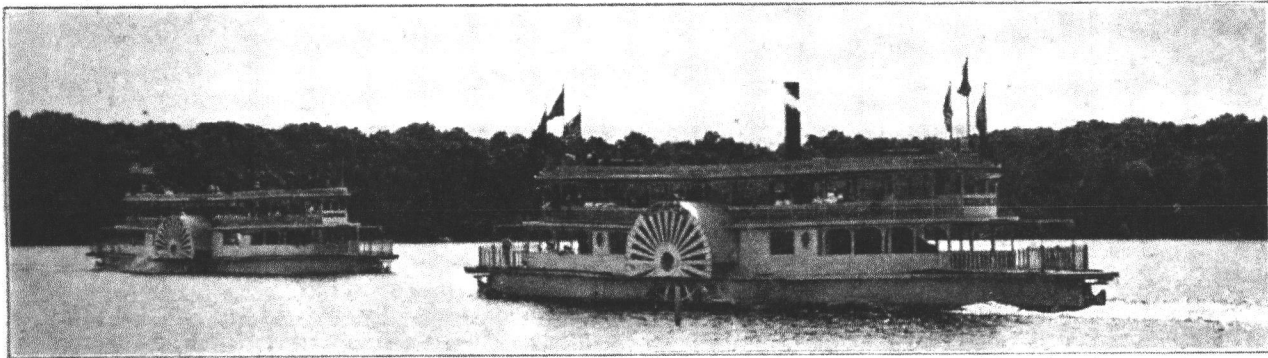
this line our cars speed along at a mile-a-minute clip with ease. Of course, within the city limits we necessarily have to run slow, but the fourteen miles from the city limits of Minneapolis to Excelsior have been made as fast as fifteen and one-half minutes, so that distance is not necessarily a handicap. Nevertheless, it takes forty-two minutes to go from the center of Minneapolis to Excelsior, and ninety minutes from the center of St. Paul to Excelsior. The

trip is a delightful one through the woods, beside the brooks, across the creeks and by the lakes for which Minnesota is so famous. The ride is invigorating and refreshing and altogether invites the traveler to repeat it again and again.

On arrival at Excelsior passengers are unloaded at the dock station and board ferry boats for a two-mile trip to Big Island Park. This dock station is very conveniently arranged for a loading station, and it is at that point that cars connect with the entire fleet of boats operated by the

p. m., the amount of business they carried to the park was small as compared with the business that moved in the daytime. It can readily be seen that the time taken to go to the park and the time taken to return home would cut out the good part of the evening. So we can hardly hope to develop much evening traffic from town.

When we first opened Big Island Park we thought that the steamboat ride between Excelsior and the island might prove to be an argument against people going to the park in any considerable numbers, but last year's experience

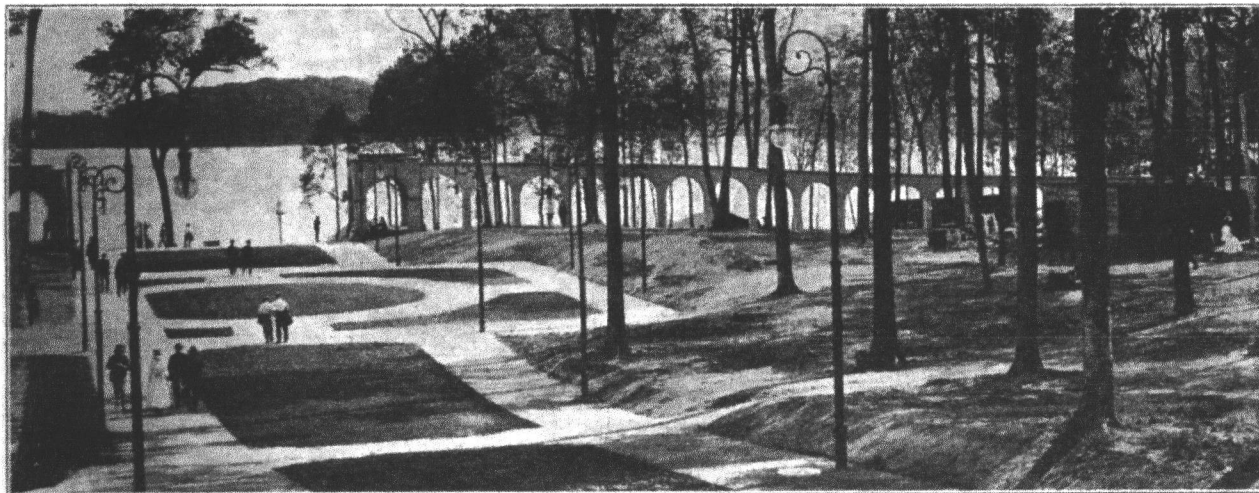


FERRY BOATS PASSING NEAR BIG ISLAND PARK

"Twin City Lines." Six fast express boats carry cottagers to all points around the lake; three excursion boats do a special tourist business and three double-end, double-deck, side-wheel ferries, modeled on the lines of the Jersey City-New York ferries, perform a shuttle service to and from the park. It is only sixty minutes' trip from Minneapolis to Big Island Park and a little less than two hours from St. Paul.

Last summer we handled the majority of picnics con-

taught us that, for the most part, people enjoyed the ferry trip. Considering that it is only twenty minutes each way between Excelsior and Big Island Park, that the boats are roomy, stanch and safe and do not steam far from land at any time, this part of the trip appealed peculiarly to many patrons who would not care to make a longer water trip. During the week one ferry boat performs an hourly service between Excelsior and the park. During the rush hours of the day an extra boat is put on. On Sundays and holi-



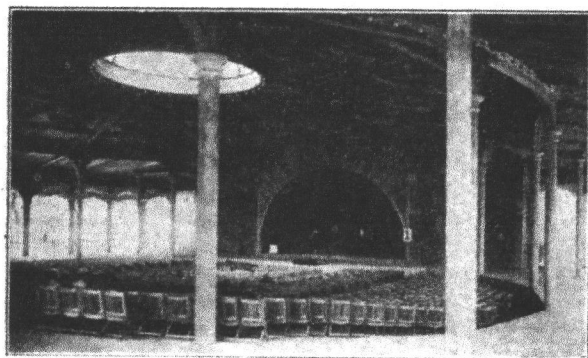
WALK FROM FERRY DOCKS TO WATER TOWER AT BIG ISLAND PARK

ducted by Minneapolis churches, Sunday schools, lodges and special parties, but owing to the fact that we had not yet put on through cars from St. Paul, the amount of business from that city was limited. We discovered that Big Island Park is essentially a spend-the-day picnic resort. Most of our business leaves Minneapolis before 10 a. m. It is either a question of going out before 10 o'clock and returning to the city about 6 p. m. or leaving the city about 2 p. m. and returning to the city about 11 p. m. Although our "Excelsior Limited" cars left Minneapolis as late as 7:30

days the three ferries furnish a twenty-minute service throughout the day and they have all they can do to take care of the business on that schedule.

With the intention of making Big Island Park strictly a family resort and a place to enjoy an ideal summer day's picnic, we have expended a great deal of effort to supply enough comforts on the island to make one's holiday pleasant. Still we have not attempted to improve too much on nature. The Almighty made the island and the thoughtful person will take counsel before attempting to improve on

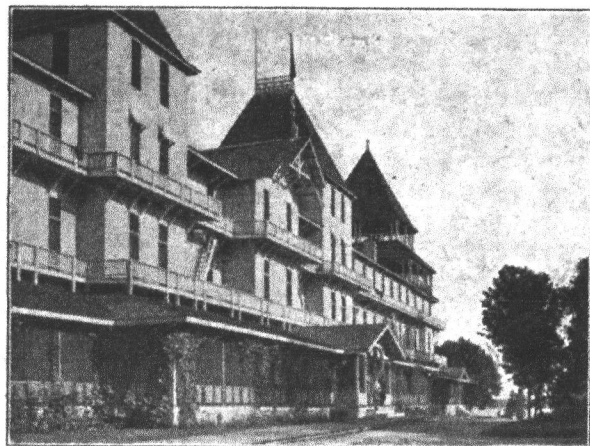
His handiwork. Big Island Park is an island of majestic trees, rolling lawns, knolls and numerous beautiful vantage points from which may be enjoyed a variety of vistas of water and sky, and altogether it is a most unusual resort from a natural beauty standpoint. We have an artesian well 400 ft. deep, furnishing a fine water supply, and we store our water in a steel tower covered with concrete and studded with electric lights. This tower is a close copy of the famous tower of Seville, Spain, and makes an attractive ornament to the island. At the base of the tower there is



INTERIOR OF MUSIC CASINO, BIG ISLAND PARK

a shelter house, and there are attractive walks from the ferry docks to the tower.

Some exceedingly effective architectural features are employed on the island, and of these probably the most novel is the peristyle following the ridge of the island. It is built of concrete and outlined with electric lights. We have excellent modern toilet rooms for men and women, as well as smaller comfort stations here and there throughout the grounds. Four picnic kitchens equipped with ranges and tables and built of concrete are located in different parts of the island in the picnic grounds so that it is possible for

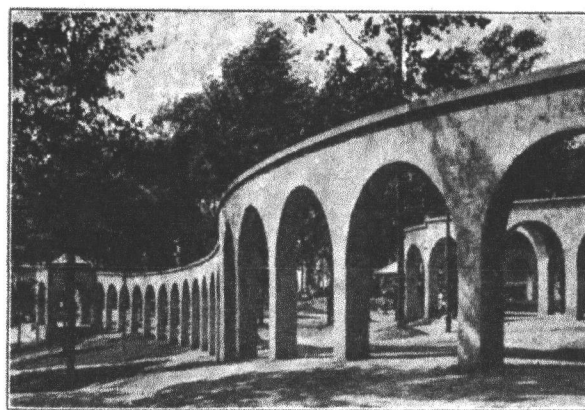


TONKA BAY HOTEL, LAKE MINNETONKA

at least four large picnics to have culinary accommodations at the same time. All the buildings on Big Island Park are absolutely fireproof with the exception of the temporary refreshment pavilion, which we intend to replace at an early date with something more commodious and substantial. There are no more beautiful picnic grounds to be found in all America than those of Big Island Park, and it is proving an ideal place for churches, Sunday schools, family gatherings and parties, young and old, who wish to enjoy themselves amidst the pleasantest surroundings.

The place makes no pretensions to equalling the fatiguing clamor of Coney Island, and the thoughtful mother and father can feel that their children may visit the park with other children and be free from annoyance or improper influences of any kind. The best order is maintained under all circumstances, and last year's testimonials give proof that our painstaking care in this matter was appreciated.

While it is essentially a picnic resort, Big Island Park still has some inexpensive and attractive amusement features sufficiently numerous to add zest to the holiday and answer the question: "What is there to do here?" We have an excellent Figure Eight roller coaster, a carousel, a baseball ground, an Enchanted River, a Trip Through Yellowstone Park, a postal photo gallery and Pennyodeon. The park's main attraction, however, is the \$50,000 music casino, built of steel, concrete and glass, and seating 1500 persons comfortably. During the few weeks of the first season, 1906, we had Innes' band for two weeks, and last year Banda Rossa for five weeks, the Navassar Ladies' Band for two weeks, and "Nelson and His Band" with Twin City vocalists for two weeks. We are about convinced that foreign bands did no larger business for us than good local bands. It seems that band music should be an incidental matter, anyhow, with no charge for it, and I am inclined to think that a good local band, if bands we must have, are about as effective as any. At least that is the way it worked with us, for "Nelson and His Band" from the Twin Cities certainly did as much business in proportion, all things considered, as the other bands. Whether we will continue using the Casino for bands exclusively in the future, or devote part of the time to high-class vaudeville is a question we have not yet settled, but one of these two features will certainly be adopted. A good lecturer once in a while can add to a park's popularity. To have men of the calibre of Bryan or Watterson lecture at a park such as ours would undoubtedly result in securing great numbers of people from surrounding towns who would necessarily have to use our line and our boats, as



A BIT OF THE PERISTYLE AT BIG ISLAND PARK

well as be taken to the Island where the amusement features hold forth. Of course, that opens up the question as to whether it is desirable to go after congested crowds of people or cater simply to an even every-day traffic.

Our regular round trip rate, Minneapolis to the Park and return, is fifty cents; for parties of fifty or more persons, thirty-five cents. St. Paul rates are ten cents higher. We also sell an attractive twenty-five-ride ticket between Minneapolis and any point on the lake reached by our boats for \$4.50, or eighteen cents a ride. These tickets are

used by all cottagers and many transients. It was our experience last summer that we secured a great deal of business in the evening from the many cottagers about the lake, and by a convenient system of boat schedules on all our express boat routes, we enabled cottagers to leave their homes after supper, visit the park, listen to the band concert and return to their homes at a seasonable hour. We secured considerable business from these cottagers at the park, in addition to the 20 cents for the round trip on the boat, which entitled them to entrance to the island.

Early in the spring of 1908 we are going to extend our present line from Excelsior to Manitou, one and one-half miles, and from Manitou we have leased one and one-half miles of an old established steam railroad to Tonka Bay. This is part of the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad and we are going to electrify it. We are then going to run through cars from Minneapolis to Tonka Bay, instead of stopping them at Excelsior as at present, although they will continue to make all boat connections at Excelsior. By this move the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad, which has been doing a large picnic business will step out of the Minnetonka picnic field and we will have the entire South Shore section to ourselves. We also operate a cottage spur line from Deephaven Junction to Deephaven on the lake, which was formerly a steam line operated by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul and which we have electrified. This gives us another line to the South Shore cottage colony.

When we make our entrance into Tonka Bay next summer we are going to find several new problems on our hands, which will require solution and which will in many ways fit in with the Big Island Park plan very nicely. The largest hotel at Lake Minnetonka is the Tonka Bay Hotel, located at Tonka Bay. It is some years old, but still is a very comfortable summer hotel and beautifully located. Its management is going to pass into our hands, and we will be prepared to take care of 400 persons under its roof very comfortably. Near the hotel, and part of the hotel property, is a modern roller skating rink, which is a particularly favored resort for the cottagers, young and old, around the South Shore. When we secure large picnic parties hereafter, which will require hot meals, or hotel accommodations in addition to the park privileges at Big Island Park, we will be able to take care of them at Tonka Bay, and, by putting on a boat service between Tonka Bay

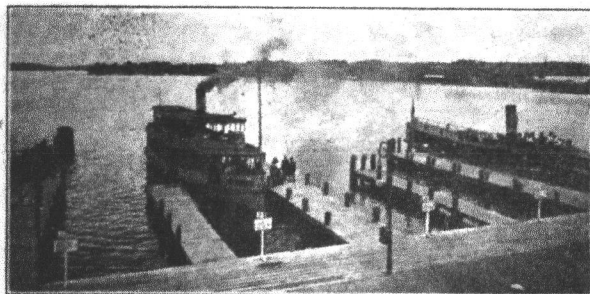
and there are a few of them—will be able to enjoy the car trip to Tonka Bay and play baseball, roller skate, dance and picnic to their heart's content, with everything to suit their taste, and still they "Don't go near the water."

We offer also a variety of other pleasure to the public who take advantage of our car service to Lake Minnetonka from the Twin Cities. We operate what we call "The Forty-Mile Lower and Upper Lake Trip," which can be enjoyed for the small outlay of 25 cents. By leaving



ROLLER SKATING RINK, TONKA BAY HOTEL

Minneapolis at 8.33 a. m. every day in the week during the summer, one can enjoy a fine spin to Excelsior, get aboard a big, safe excursion steamer and journey all over both lower and upper lakes, enjoying their bays, inlets, peninsulas, cottage colonies and the great variety of scenery for which this wonderful body of water, with its 300 miles of shore line, is famous. From 9.15 a. m. until 1 p. m., nearly four hours, one is on the water and steaming all the time. On return to Excelsior at 1 o'clock there is a car waiting to bring the traveler back to the city. We believe there is no better or cheaper trip for 25 cents to be found anywhere than this scenic tour of the lake. A similar trip is made every afternoon. If your time is limited and you prefer a closer inspection of the indentations of Minnetonka's shore, for which the lake is famous, and see its more secluded charms, you can get aboard one of our express boats, of which there are six, and enjoy a round trip ranging from one to two hours for the small sum of 20 cents. We have four of these express lines and they have been the means of educating the people to the lake's beauties in a way that has never been offered before. Of course, the hurried passenger who wants to see it all in the least possible time usually makes the forty-mile trip, but



STEAMBOAT DOCKS AT EXCELSIOR

and Big Island Park, we can shuttle our patrons back and forth between the hotel and the island in a very few minutes, and give them all the variety of comforts and accommodations they can possibly ask for. We will thus have the business of entertaining all the transient people we take to the lake, and with the equipment we will have on hand we will be in splendid shape to do so. There are also fine picnic grounds around Tonka Bay Hotel, and those who do not care to make the water trip to Big Island Park—

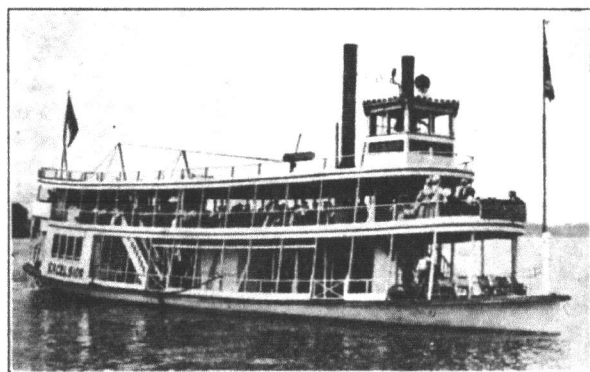


DOCK STATION, WHERE CARS AND BOATS CONNECT

our express boats have demonstrated the fact that they are splendid feeders for our rail lines, and trailing the shores, as they do, they develop a good "point to point" business.

Now about our fleet of boats which is making Minnetonka so famous. Our twelve boats have a carrying capacity of over 5,000 persons. The six fast express boats—named after cities and resorts on our lines as follows: Como, Harriet, Hopkins, Minnehaha, Stillwater, White

Bear—were built in our own shops in 1906. Like all our other equipment, they embody the latest ideas for comfort, convenience, safety, speed and beauty and are fine types of marine architecture. They were modeled after plans furnished by the most experienced designers of the foremost American shipyards, and every detail of their construction has been considered to make them absolutely seaworthy and comfortable as well as speedy. They are 70 ft. long with 14 ft. beam, have torpedo sterns and are equipped with the finest machinery, insuring a speed of from twelve to fifteen miles an hour. They are fitted up as nearly like our cars as it is possible to make them, with easy spring cane cross seats accommodating two persons each, as well as long side seats for larger parties. Each express comfortably seats 140 passengers. The windows of the express cabins are of the same design as in the cars, providing for the generous admission of the delightful lake breezes in pleasant weather, and these windows can be readily closed to insure warmth and dryness in cold and stormy weather. The three ferries: Minneapolis, St. Paul and Minnetonka, are each 142 ft. long and 39 ft. beam, with



THE FORTY-MILE EXCURSION STEAMER

a capacity each of 1000 passengers. They are new, having been built during the winter of 1906-07. The three excursion boats include the safe, comfortable stern-wheeler "Excelsior," capacity 800, and the propellers "Puritan," capacity 300, and the "Plymouth," capacity 200. These boats are also open to charter to special parties at very low rates, so that excursion parties can conveniently include their own special boat trip with their other ticket and as a part of their day's program.

Big Island Park is going to be a more popular place each year, because we are going to make it so. It possesses all the elements which will appeal to the good, substantial people of our popular Twin Cities in such a way that they will feel a sense of proprietorship in the place the more they visit it. There are a number of things which will come to the park in their own time. We expect to have first class bathing facilities, a new and more commodious refreshment pavilion and some changes and additions to our amusement features. Many of our friends ask for a bowling alley. Many would like us to play up the dancing feature in a high grade way, and still others have requested that we put in a roller skating rink. However, as we will have a thoroughly modern rink at Tonka Bay, we will probably be able to take care of those who desire that form of amusement at the Bay this summer. All these problems will take care of themselves and they will be solved in their own time.

Public sentiment usually settles most questions, even such a matter as running a park, and the careful park manager

will keep his ear close to the ground and his hand on the public pulse in the endeavor to find out the correct thing to do at the psychological time. It is a difficult thing for any one to sit down and definitely say what should be done and what should not be done in any business, and I think as we all grow older we become more tolerant and believe that possibly we may not know the last word, even in the business to which we have been devoting a good many years. Of course, age and experience certainly entitle one to speak more or less with the voice of authority, but in the summer park amusement business particularly it is a difficult thing to foretell what is going to be a success and what is not going to be a success. When such an astute amusement purveyor as Mr. Frohman cannot tell in advance whether a play, however well it impresses him, is going to make a hit or not—and how many times he has discovered after the first one or two acts of a play that he has drawn a blank—how are we going to predetermine what is an absolute success from a street railway point of view and from the public standpoint? The best possible course we can follow for our solution is this: Each company and each park manager must work out his own salvation, and, while being in a receptive mood for advice and suggestions from others who have made successes of parks in other parts of the country, still keep definitely in mind all the time that his public may be a trifle different from some other public and that his proposition may be considerably different from some other proposition.

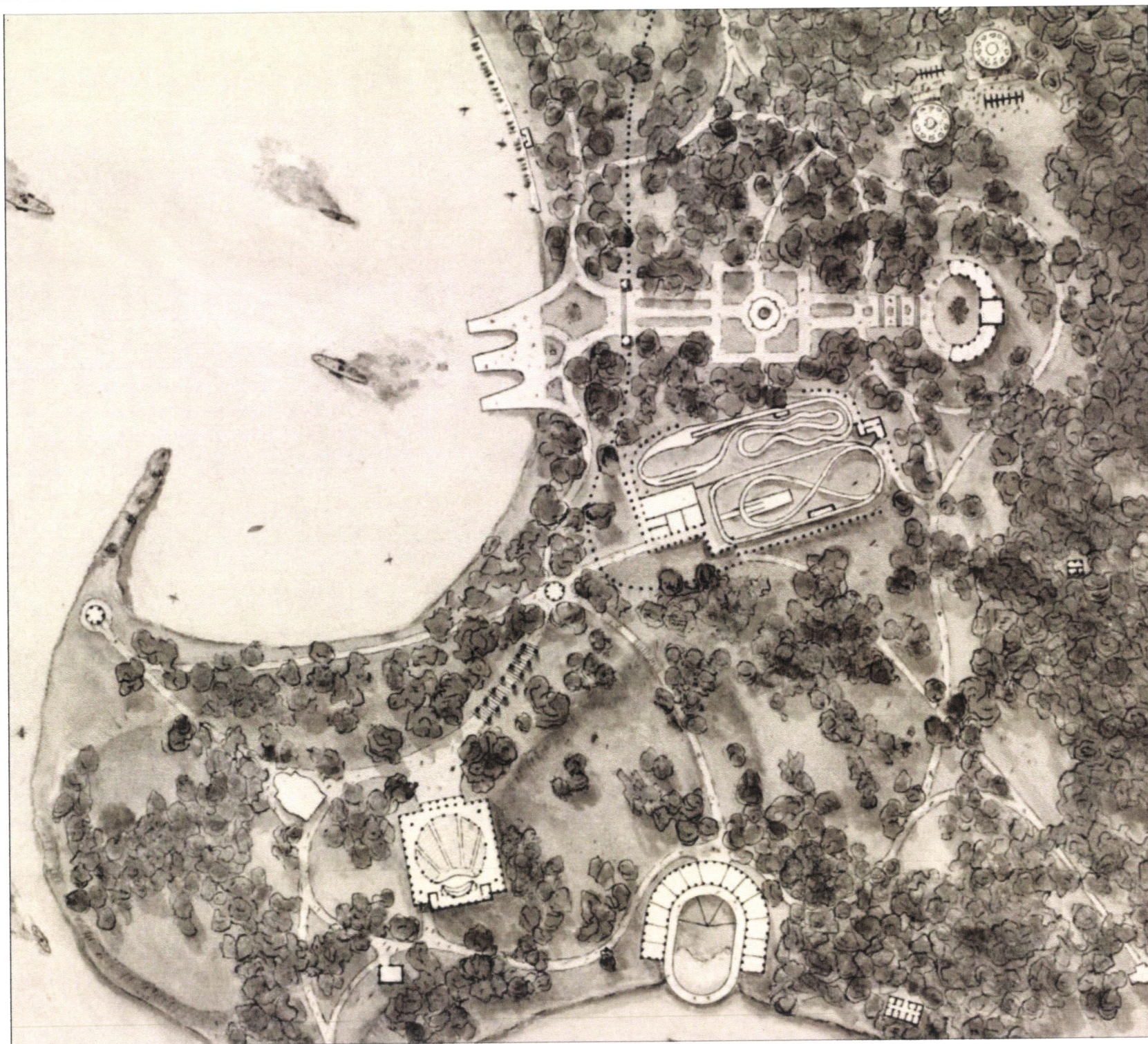
Applying the same reasonable business rules to your summer park that you would to any other proposition, and following this general policy, it seems to me that each man can solve his own park problem best.

HINTS ON CREATING ENTHUSIASM

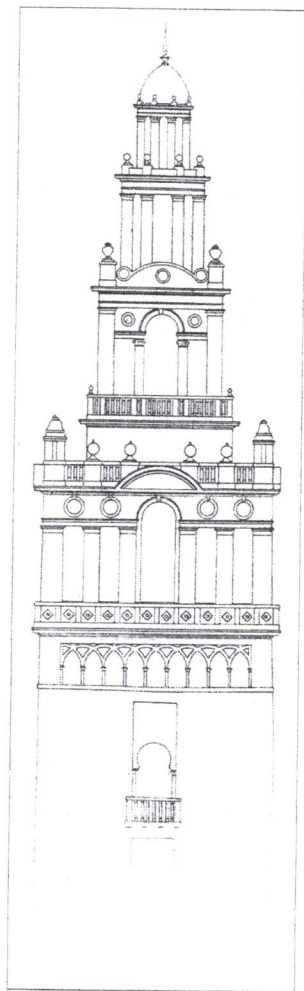
BY A PARK MANAGER

Every electric road has a certain fixed population to draw from in the cities and towns and suburban districts along the line. I am referring not to amounts as given in census figures, but to the fixity, the permanency of residence among the greater number of your possible patrons. If a company has an amusement resort which is depended upon to increase materially the riding each year and for years to come, it is to these same people year after year that the company must cater. Hence every effort should be made to secure for the park or amusement ground the reputation of being the jolliest spot in the whole section for providing entertainment or as the objective point of an outing.

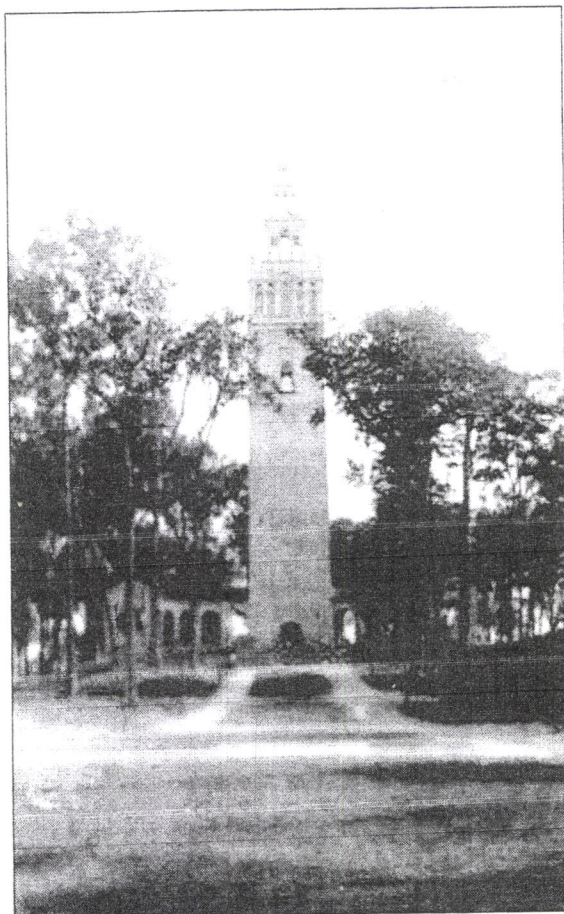
It doesn't take long for a reputation, good or bad, to work all the way through the population from which a park draws its patronage. Sooner or later one form of advertising, despite all efforts with ink, will determine the success of the park—the word-of-mouth advertising, or what one person says to another concerning it, or public opinion. The many ways of using printer's ink will inform new additions to the population and the summer visitors what they may expect to see of the beauties of the park and instill in them the desire to go, but once having visited the resort they know just what it has to offer, as the regular patrons already do. A company's main reliance in the way of advertising and popularizing a resort, therefore, after the expectant crowds have been transported there, is to treat them right, so that the park will get a reputation that will hold. If the returning cars never carry a disappointed patron, if they all feel that they have been made the objects of an



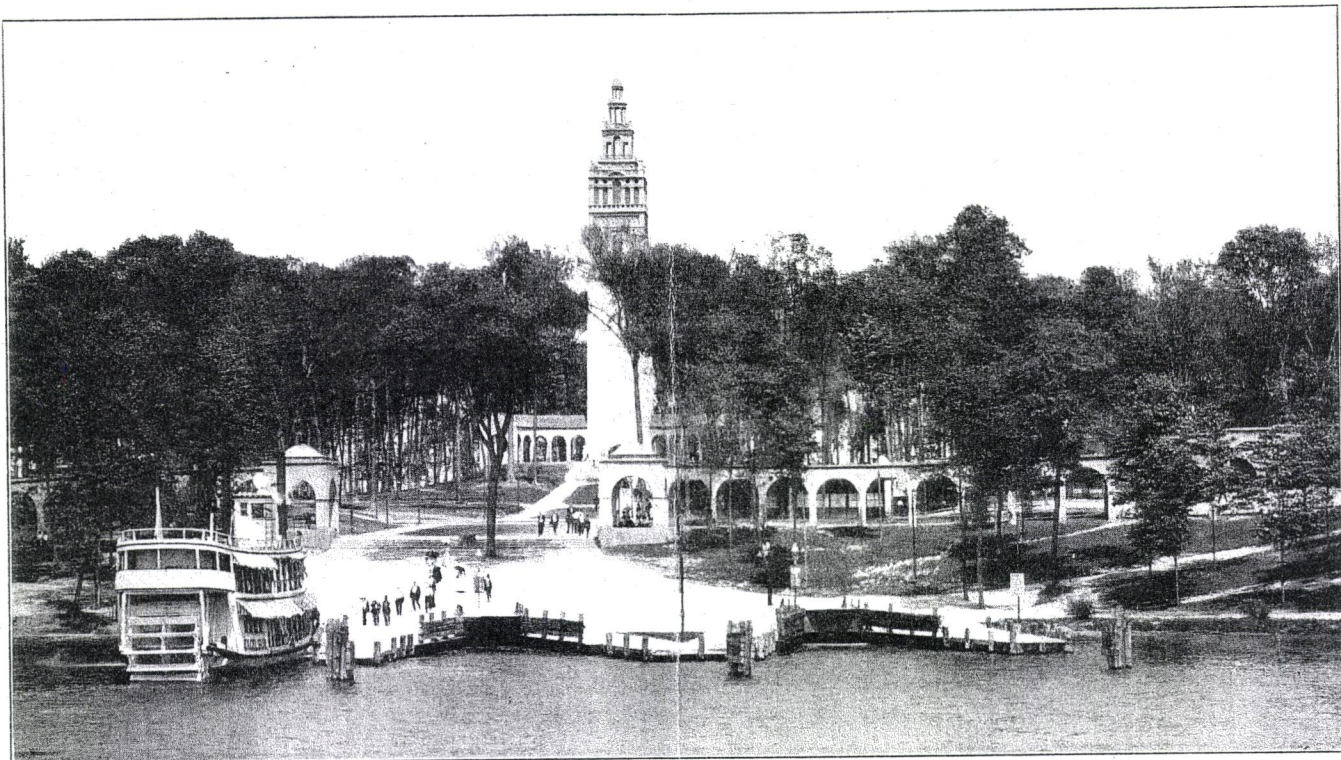
420 INDICATE PERISTYLES



Plan for the upper segment of the electric tower at Big Island Park, designed by Leroy Buffington, and constructed in 1907. *Northwest Architectural Archives.*



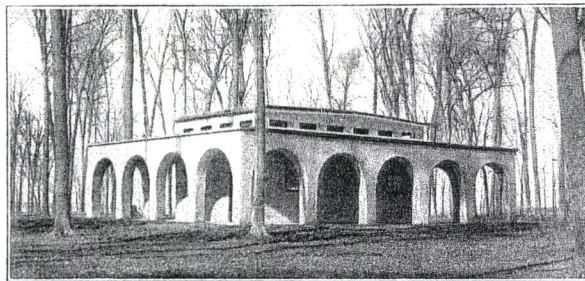
Buffington's electric tower, with part of the temporary wood pavilion on the lower right. *Westonka Historical Society*



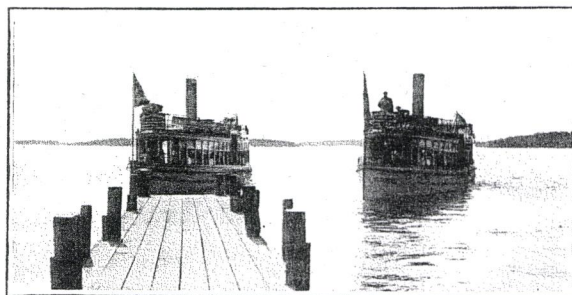
Ferry Boat Landing at Big Island Park, Lake Minnetonka, Showing Electric Water Tower



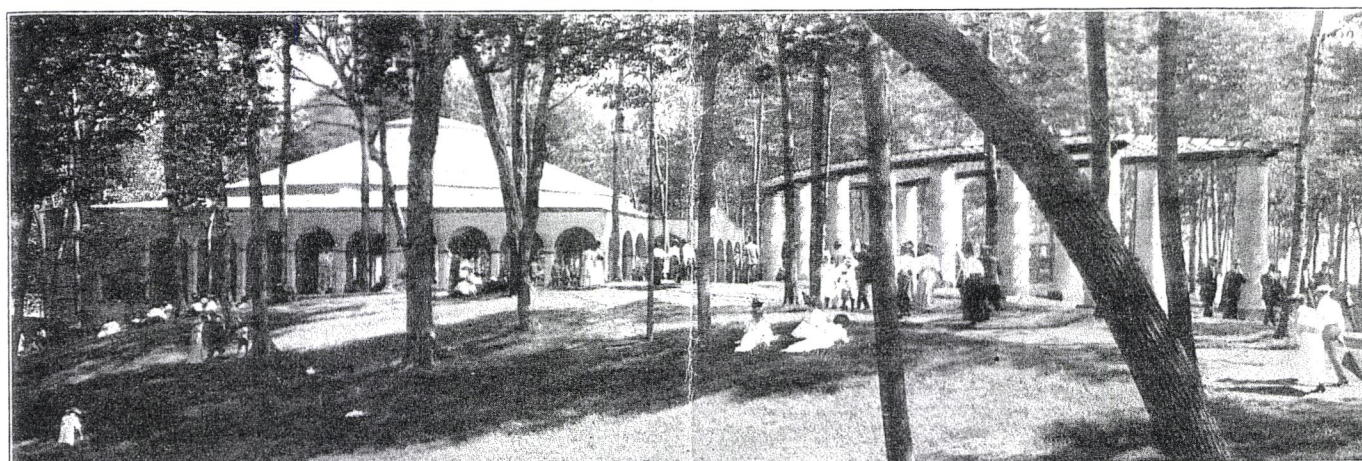
4322- MAIN WALK, BIG ISLAND PARK, LAKE MINNETONKA, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.



Concrete Picnic Kitchen at Big Island Park



Express Boats approaching Wildhurst Dock

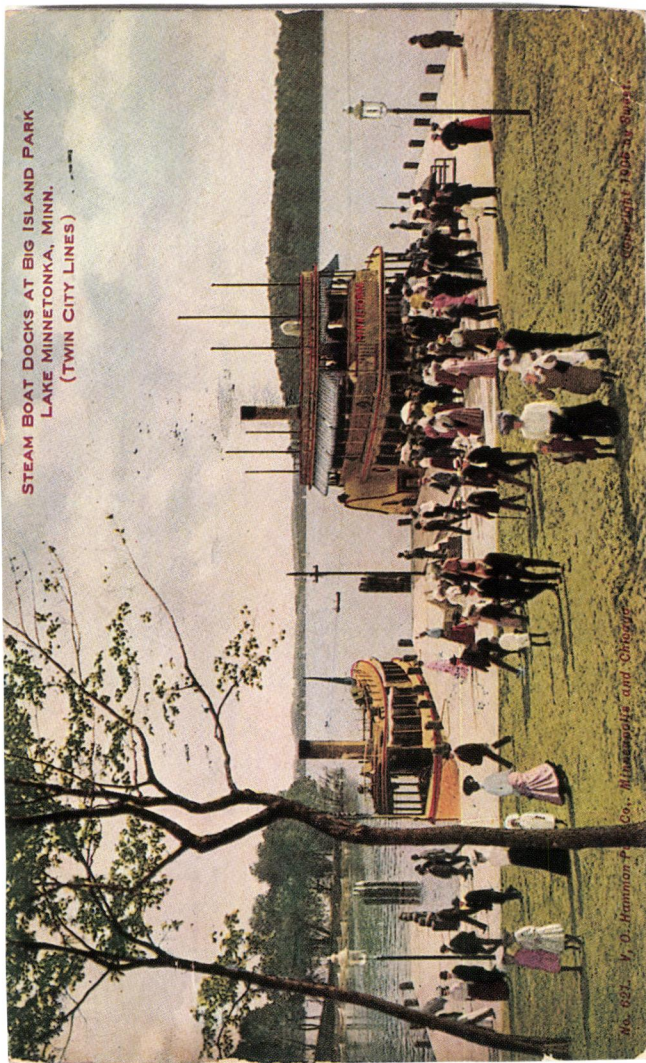


At Beautiful Big Island Park, Lake Minnetonka. The Casino on Left, Pergola on Right





Minneapolis, Minn., Lake Minnetonka, Eifel Tower, Big Island Park.



STEAM BOAT DOCKS AT BIG ISLAND PARK
LAKE MINNETONKA, MINN.
(TWIN CITY LINES)

No. 631. J. O. Hammond & Co., Minneapolis and Chicago.

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4322-MAIN WALK, BIG ISLAND PARK, LAKE MINNETONKA, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.



BIG ISLAND PARK PROMENADE, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

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HARVEY W. M. P. S.



Casino and Walk, Big Island Park, Lake Minnetonka, Minn.

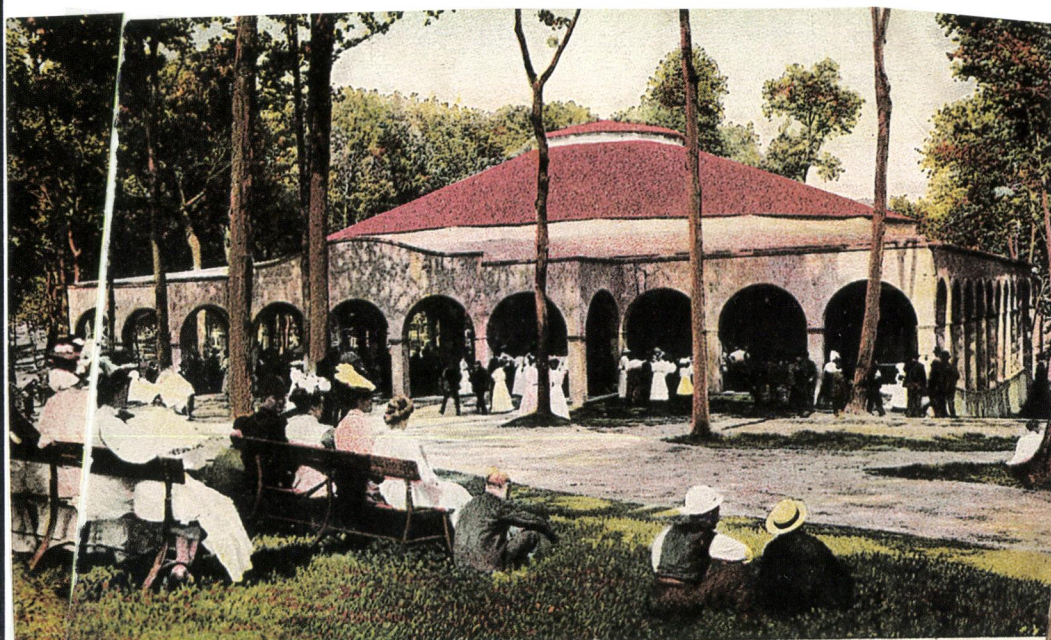
20813



THE GROVE, BIG ISLAND PARK,
LAKE MINNETONKA,
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.



Lake Minnetonka, Minn, Big Island Park.

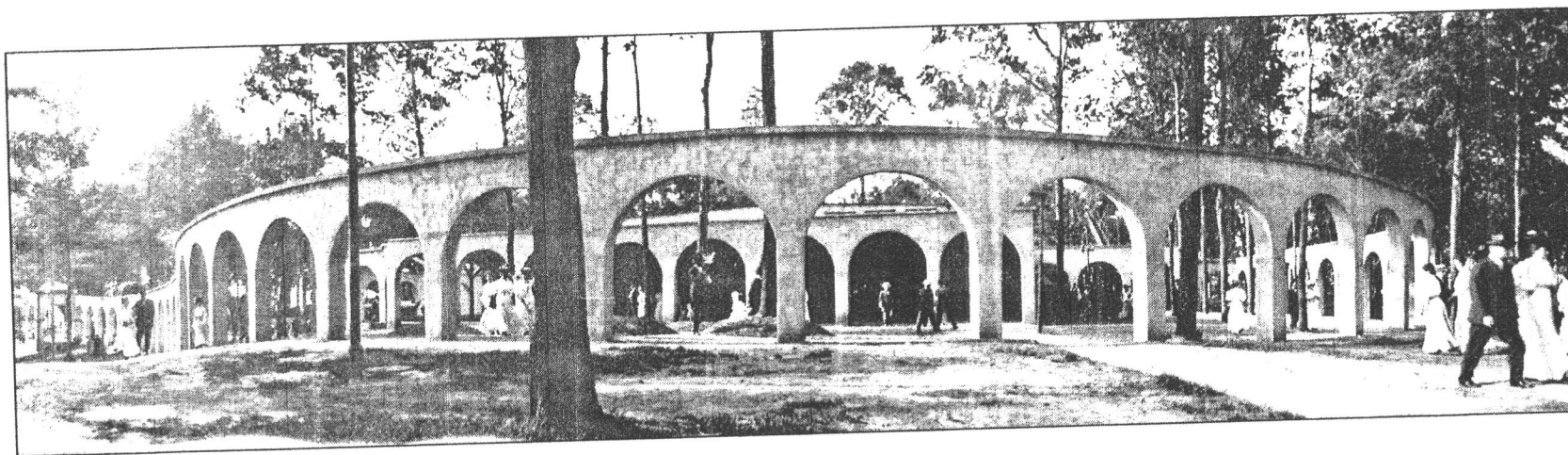
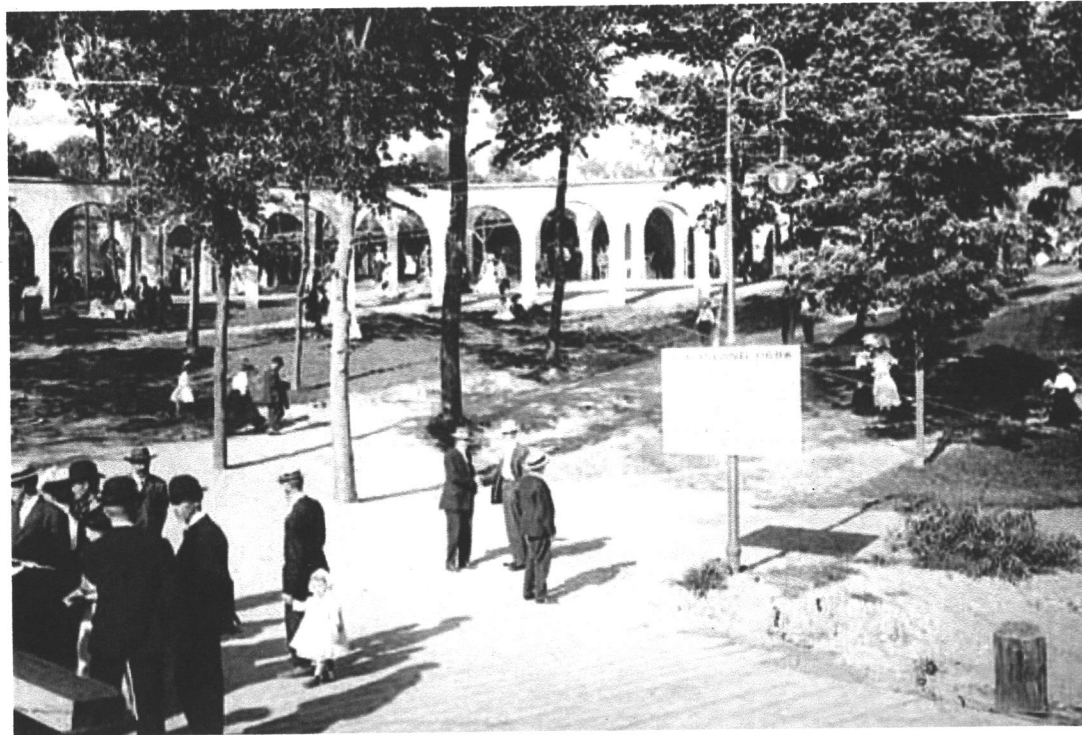


Msic Hall, Big Island Park, LAKE MINNETONKA, Minn.

10304



7. PAVILLION
BIG ISLAND PARK, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.



The Amusement Boulevard (background), looking northeast. Behind this building was the roller coaster and old mill ride.
Northwest Architectural Archives



The park's roller coaster, seen from the east.
Minn. Historical Society



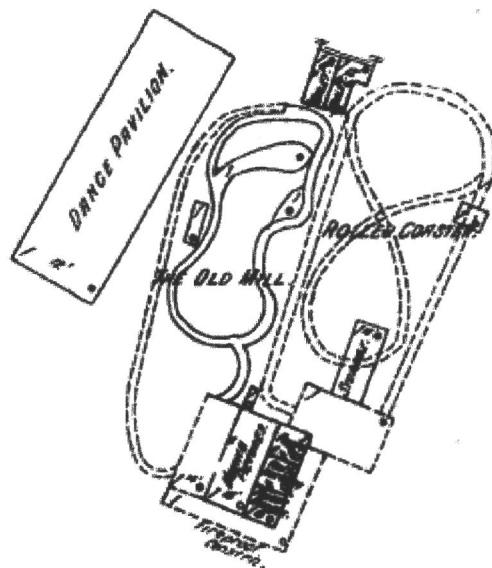
Roller coaster and electric tower, photographed in 1912 by the Hutchison family.
Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka Historical Society

Scale 100 ft to One inch

B I G I S L A N D P A R K . (C L O S E D)

WATCHMAN, NEWSMAN CLOCK, 14 STATIONS,
REPORTING AT 7 A.M., 12 O'CLOCK NOON &
5 P.M. DAILY. - LIGHTS: ELECTRIC. NO HEAT.
6 UNDERWRITERS CHEMICAL EXTERNS. DISTRIED.
ALL BUILDINGS SHOWN FIREPROOF CONSTR.
ARE HOLLOW TILE & CONCRETE CONSTR.,
STUCCOED EXTERIORS.

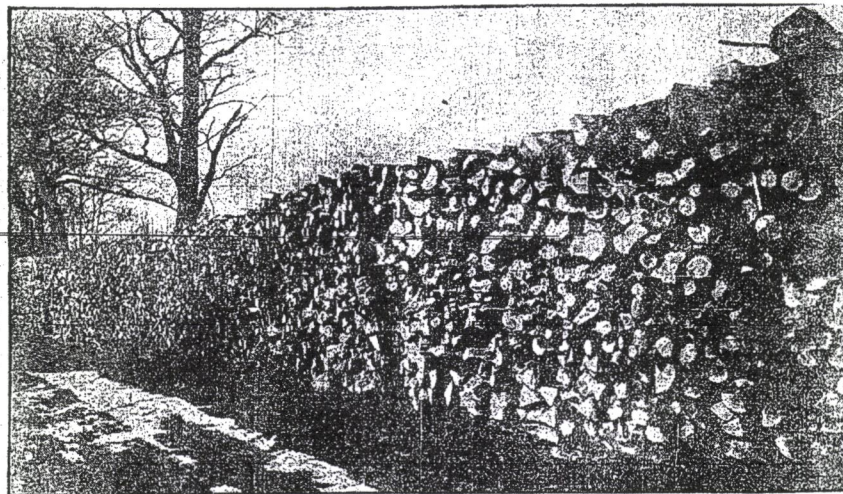
WATER TOWER, HOLLOW TILE CONSTR. - 35 FT.
5.40 TALL LIFTED & RAISED BY DIESEL PUMP.
STUCCOED INTERIOR.
FIREPROOF CONSTR.
WATER FROM CITY WATER WORKS.
PUMP OPERATED BY ELECT. MOTOR.



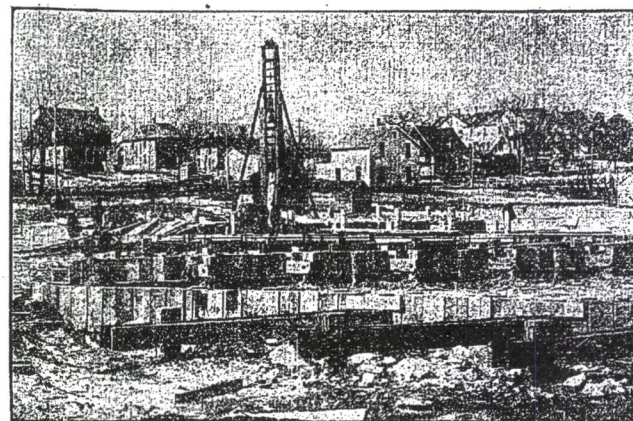
RE-INFORCED CONC. & TILE CONSTR.
EXCEPT EXPOSED STEEL RO. TRUSS
USING CIRCULAR BRACKET & TR.
STAND & BRACING ROOFS.

1st BAND STAND.

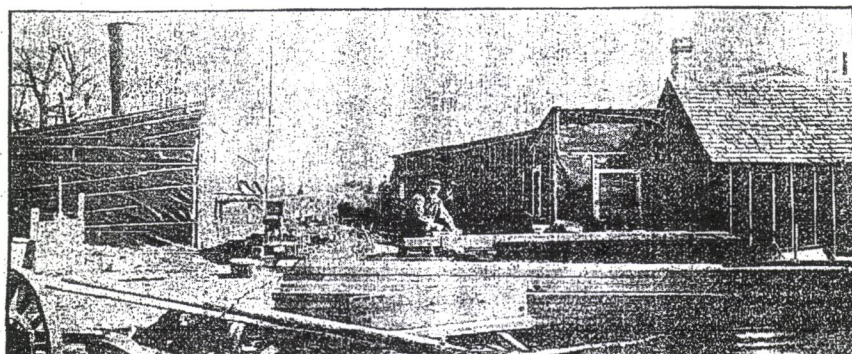
IMMENSE TASK STREET RAILWAY COMPANY HAS UNDERTAKEN AT BIG ISLAND, LAKE MINNETONKA



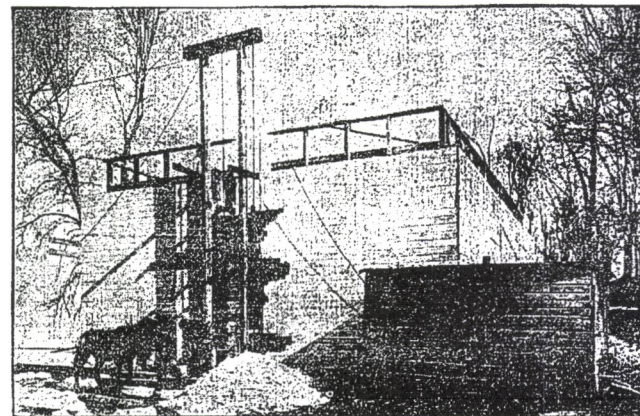
A PILE OF WOOD CUT FROM THE SITE OF THE NEW PLEASURE RESORT ON BIG ISLAND. There were 1004 cords of fine wood cut by the Twin City Rapid Transit Co. By Tribune Staff Photographer.



POTTING IN THE IMMENSE STEAMER DOCKS AT EXCELSIOR THROUGH THE ICE. By Tribune Staff Photographer.



A VIEW OF THE TWIN CITY RAPID TRANSIT CO. SHIPYARD AT LAKE MINNETONKA. By Tribune Staff Photographer.



TWIN CITY RAPID TRANSIT CO. FILLING UP ITS ICE HOUSES AT LAKE MINNETONKA SUMMER RESORT. By Tribune Staff Photographer.

The great work which the Twin City Rapid Transit company has undertaken at Big Island, Minnetonka, where the new pleasure park for Twin City excursionists is being prepared, has many interesting features. The first thing to interest a visitor to the new grounds is their great size. After roaming away from the lake shore and noting the forbidding up of a beautiful wooded district, it becomes apparent that some 60 acres are to be included in the amusement park.

The work of beautifying the tract commenced early last fall and gangs of men have worked off and on all winter long at various tasks. The greatest labor has been performed in cleaning the grounds of underbrush, unsightly deadwood and weeds, the idea being to give a park appearance to the pleasure ground while retaining its natural beauty. The work has been prosecuted under an efficient landscape gardener, and the artistic beauty of the woodland has been preserved in all respects. But paths had to be cut, ugly banks had to be adorned with flowers, and luxurious grasses, and all sorts of pretty features indicated that will give the landscape a beautiful appearance.

The Tribune's photographer, who visited Big Island recently, found many evidences of activity not only at the Amusement Park but in Excelsior, where the new docks are being installed, represented a most important piece of work. The new shipyard where the company is building three enormous ferry boats with a capacity of 1,500 passengers each is also an interesting sight.

As an evidence of the work at Big Island, it is interesting to know that the company has more than 1,000 cords of wood on the island.

Minneapolis Tribune (1867-1908); Aug 13, 1905;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Minneapolis Tribune (1867-1922)
pg. 15

PICNIC

Grounds and a Pleasure Park
In General To Be Estab-
lished On Big Island

Entire Sixty Acres Recently Ac-
quired for an Amusement
Enterprise.

Electric Line Will Be Opened in
Connection With an Elaborate
Steamboat Service.

It transpires that the recent purchase of the eastern end of Big Island, Lake Minnetonka, by "H. M. Moss" from Samuel Morse for \$20,000, was a Twin City Rapid Transit Company deal after all.

At the time of the transfer of the property some weeks ago it was positively asserted that the street railway people had acquired the property and would make of it a big pleasure ground for patrons of their Excelsior line.

It was said that the company would utilize the entire sixty acres of the island in a grand amusement venture,

which would combine the attractions of Coney Island of the East with those of the St. Louis and Portland expositions of the West; that is, "the Pike" and "the Trail" of those mammoth exhibitions.

It was even hinted that race tracks and garages for the entertainment of Barney Oldfields and kindred spirits would be installed, and that "Gay Paree" would be a dull and listless town on a small river compared to Big Island, opposite Katahdin and near Hotel St. Louis.

But Lester Elwood, who conducted the negotiations—for Mr. Moss, declared at the time that the street railway people had not bought the property, a statement which was absolutely true at the time, and the company's officials ridiculed the idea that they had taken it over.

The problem of caring for the immense crowds which are certain to patronize the new Excelsior line has been given much thought by the company's officials, and all sorts of plans for the entertainment of thousands of people in a single day have been considered.

It has already been decided to operate the cars in connection with steamboats on Minnetonka, so that visitors will have a swing around the water circle, but the acquisition of a part of Big Island makes it certain that a more ambitious program will be prepared for lake visitors.

C. G. Goodrich, vice president of the T. C. R. T. Company, could not be seen yesterday, and General Manager Hild knew nothing regarding the latest transfer of the property.

SUMMER RESORTS AND PARKS

INNES AND HIS GREAT NEW YORK BAND BIG ISLAND PARK

(Lake Minnetonka's Beautiful New Island Resort.)

Commencing Sunday, August 5th

Assisted by a Coterie of Great Soloists: Bellstedt, Cornetist, Williams, Harpist, Jiskra, Bass Violinist, Sarli, Clarinet.

TO REACH BIG ISLAND PARK—Take any Excelsior car, and enjoy the most beautiful Electric car trip in all America. Free transfer on all through tickets to Big Ferry Boats for Big Island Park. Fare from any point in Minneapolis, by transfer to Big Island Park (including a great two-mile boat ride), each way, only... **25c**

No Extra Admission to Big Island Park or for Seat in the Beautiful Wooded Grove to Hear

INNES' GREAT BAND



SEE TWIN CITIES ON "TWIN CITY SIGHTSEER"

The Fast, Clean, Handsome Electric Car Everybody Likes to Ride On.
 Panoramic Belt Trip Includes—
LAKE HARRIET.
MINNEAPOLIS FALLS.
INDIAN MOUNDS—COMO PARK.
 Loring Park, Lake Calhoun, Lakewood Cemetery, Great Views of River, Merriam Park, State Capitol, State Fair, State University, St. Anthony Falls, Flour Mills and most beautiful sections of both cities.
The Cheapest Way—Pleasantest—Most Comfortable—Most Picturesque
 Tickets at 13 North Sixth Street. Phone—N. W. 4580; T. C. 3133.

TAKE ANY INTERURBAN CAR For Wildwood

And Transfer at Wabasha and 7th Sts. in St. Paul
 Cars from St. Paul Every 15 Minutes.
 One of America's Finest Trolley Trips. Fare From Minneapolis Each Way 20 Cents.
WHITE BEAR LAKE'S IDEAL PARK RESORT.
 Fireworks on Wednesday and Saturday Nights.

BIG ISLAND PARK (Lake Minnetonka's Resort Beautiful.)

Closes Sunday Night, Sept. 8,
 For the Season of 1907

After Which Ferry Service Between Excelsior and the Park Will Be Discontinued.

Go Out on Sunday and Enjoy One More Delightful Day on This Most Enchanting Island. Take a Ride on an "Express" Boat and See Lake Minnetonka in all its Summer Beauty.

Ten-minute car service from Sixth street Sunday and an "Express" boat from Excelsior every fifteen minutes.

NEW TIME TABLES WILL TAKE EFFECT MONDAY, SEPT. 9. GET A COPY.

These time tables provide for practically the full summer car and boat service, enabling you to visit beautiful Lake Minnetonka during September—the most charming month of all the year at the lake—in the fastest, most convenient way you have enjoyed all summer.

The Electric Way Is the Only Way!

Minneapolis Tribune (1867-1908); Mar 31, 1907;
 ProQuest Historical Newspapers Minneapolis Tribune (1867-1922)
 pg. 6

BANDA ROSSA COMING

**BIG ISLAND, LAKE MINNETONKA,
 IS FUTURE RENDEZVOUS.**

Music Lovers of City and Country to Be Royally Entertained This Summer—\$250,000 in Improvements at Summer Resort.

The Twin City Rapid Transit company has expended over \$250,000 for improvements at Big Island, Lake Minnetonka, during the winter months and it will be difficult to recognize the place again when summer comes around.

The music casino is now almost completed and it is a magnificent structure. It is made of stone, concrete, glass and steel and has a seating capacity of 1,500. It is so built that it can be closed during bad weather and pleasure seekers at the island will be able to have a good time, rain or shine. The steel frame work for the huge electric tower is already up and the concrete kitchens and dormitories have been completed. The terminal facilities at Excelsior are being enlarged and three ferry boats owned by the company have been practically rebuilt.

Two of the chief attractions at the island will be the aviary and the aquarium. The gathering of the birds and fish has taken much labor, time and money and the work in this respect has only just begun.

While the season at the island will be informally opened in May, the formal opening will not be until June 16. There will be eleven weeks of music beginning with Banda Rossa. Other bands to be heard during the season will be the Royal Hungarian band and the San Carlos Italian band.

AT BIG ISLAND PARK
 Minneapolis Tribune (1867-1908); Jun 17, 1907;
 ProQuest Historical Newspapers Minneapolis Tribune (1867-1922)
 pg. 7

AT BIG ISLAND PARK

**BANDA ROSSA OPENS SEASON OF
 FIVE WEEKS.**

Hundreds Take Advantage of Beautiful Sunday to Enjoy Journey by Trolley and Boat and Concerts in Beautiful New Casino.

Not only was Hi Jinks the Picnic Person in evidence at Big Island Park yesterday, but he was accompanied by the Proverb Person, (name unknown), who always has a wise saying for every possible occasion. His proverb for yesterday was, "It's an ill wind that blows nobody good." He based his application of the same upon the torrid heat and alluring sunshine, which, though it lessened the theater crowds, sent hundreds to the opening for the season of the new playground that the Twin City Rapid Transit company has established in the lower lake at Minnetonka.

Big Island Park is well worth the journey that has to be made to reach it. In fact, the journey itself is part of the fun, for it carries one swiftly and coolly past wood and field, stream and lake, until beautifully Minnetonka is reached, when the rural trip comes to an appropriate conclusion in a ten minute boat ride across the blue, foam crested waters of the famous lake.

Arrived at the park there is something for every sort of sojourner to do and enjoy. The nature lover may wander over rolling, sunlit turf under the shade of spreading trees; the poet may translate the songs of wind, wave and bird; the fun lover may ride the merry-go-round, the roller coaster or the other amusement devices; and the music lover, which term applies pretty generally when Sorrentino and the Banda Rossa furnish the music, may sit in the beautiful new music casino or loiter outside under the trees and hear the afternoon and evening programs.

Sorrentino is nothing if not catholic and impartial in his programs, and, like Big Island Park itself, he has something for everybody to enjoy. His Banda Rossa needs no exploitation in Minneapolis. The organization is the same group of artists as of yore, and barring an unfortunate placing of the percussion instruments yesterday, which made them somewhat too prominent, the well remembered quality of this great band, which has placed it in the foremost rank, was felt as fully as in previous years. Sorrentino excels in delicate effects produced with full instrumentation. Though his fortissimos are thrilling, that of the glorious "Andrea Chénier" selection quite carried the audience off its feet yesterday afternoon. The afternoon program opened with a characteristic Sorrentino composition, containing lively, swinging airs with trimmings of trilling clarinets, crashing drums and cymbals and golden toned brasses. It is a new march dedicated to the island and called "Big Island March." The program of the day included compositions by Suppe, Wagner, (the "Song to the Evening Star" beautifully played by the solo baritone, Signor Lodato), Verdi, Waidteufel, Giordano, Macbeth, Conterno, Braga, Leoncavallo, Donizetti, (the inevitable sextette), and Schumann; certainly a generous variety.

The new music casino is an ideal place for summer concerts. It is built, like the other big island structures, of soft gray stucco, which blends with the green grass and foliage much more gratefully than the usual wooden pavilion of yellow and red. The interior, which seats 1,500, is finished in light wood, the floor sloping toward a great arched shell in which the band is seated. The acoustics are admirable. Through stucco arches along the sides the park and distant lake are in plain view.

The Banda Rossa will give two concerts daily, at 2:45 and 7:45 p. m., for five weeks. The programs for today follow:

AFTERNOON PROGRAM.
 "A True Soldier" March Locatelli
 Overture—"Barber of Seville" Rossini
 Pilgrim Chorus from "Lohengrin" Verdi
 Fantasia from "Bellini of Normandy" Planquette
INTERMISSION.
 "The Dying Poet" Gottschalk
 "Tres Jolis" Waltz Waidteufel
 "Goddess" Potpourri Beethoven
 "1807 Medley Overture" Clarke
EVENING PROGRAM.
 "Electric" March Sorrentino
 Overture—"William Tell" Rossini
 "The Stars and the Moon Serenade" Sorrentino
Grand Selection from "Carmen" Bizet
INTERMISSION.
 Grand Selection from "Rigoletto" Verdi
 Waltz Sorrentino
 "Big Island Park March" Sorrentino

SECURES RARE BIRDS

R. F. JONES RETURNS FROM TRIP ABROAD WITH FINE SPECIMENS.

Visited All of Leading Zoological
Gardens and Brings Back a Vari-
ety of Land and Water Fowls—
Will Be Seen at Big Island.

Minneapolis is to have one of the most complete and beautiful collections of birds in the country. R. F. Jones, who went to Europe last year in the interest of the Twin City Rapid Transit company, returned home from his trip last night, having secured a choice collection of both land and water fowls. Mr. Jones has been gone a little over two months, and his trip was highly successful.

"I visited all of the leading zoological gardens on the continent," said Mr. Jones last night, "and am both pleased and satisfied with my errand. I succeeded in getting a number of almost every variety of birds, and I am sure the collection which we are to have will be interesting to Minneapolis people."

About 2,000 birds were secured in all by Mr. Jones, and they will be exhibited at Big Island, the park of the Twin City Rapid Transit company. Some are now on the way here, and others will arrive later. All will be taken to the home of Mr. Jones at Minnehaha during the winter, where they will be acclimated and cared for until spring.

"I canvassed thoroughly the gardens at Liverpool, London, Dover, Southampton, and all of the chief continental cities," said Mr. Jones, "and got some very rare and beautiful birds. Almost every foreign country is represented in the collection which we are to have. We intend to add to it each year, and I hope to have here in Minneapolis one of the best collections in the United States."

Mr. Jones returned home on the *Caesaria Augusta Victoria*, on which the countess of Yarmouth, sister of Harry Thaw, was also a passenger.

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BUILDING BOOM ON AT LAKE MINNETONKA

In spite of the high price of building material, contractors and builders will have a busy season at Lake Minnetonka this year. While the January snows were still on the ground and when the ice was 26 inches thick on the lake, plans were being made for dozens of pretty lake homes. No sooner had the snow disappeared than an army of carpenters from the Twin Cities descended upon the lake and proceeded to erect enough houses of various kinds to make a good-sized village if they could be got together.

First in importance and cost, of course, in the way of building operations at the lake must be mentioned the great improvements that the trolley is making at its Excelsior terminal and at Big Island park. The terminal buildings at the steamboat landing at Excelsior will be a joy to the lake visitor when completed. They are unique in appearance, plastered on the outside with stucco and with red roofs. They are large, low buildings, suggestive of New Mexican architecture. The waiting station, located directly on the lake shore and at which passengers waiting for cars or boats may take shelter from sun or rain, is open on the sides, its walls being composed of a series of arches. On the second floor there is a wide balcony from which a splendid view of the lower lake can be obtained, with its panorama of moving craft. On the side of this station facing the lake is a dial 15 feet in diameter upon which the time can be observed far out on the lake. Just across the tracks is a refreshment building erected on much the same style.

BIG ISLAND PARK.

The park at Big Island is receiving the largest share of attention, however, and it will be a veritable fairyland when it opens for the summer. A large auditorium has been built near the center of the grounds that will protect from the sun on hot days and from the rain as well. Thus the strong series of concerts can be given without interruption. The building is constructed of concrete and steel, and has a very attractive appearance both outside and inside.

One of the unique features of the park is a concrete palisade consisting of a series of arches running along either

side of the broad way that leads from boat landing to the main features of park. A lofty tower situated in center of the park is another striking feature. Preparations are now being made for the care and exhibition of fine array of birds and fish that the company has provided.

Considerably more than the usual amount of building is going on all around the lake.

Harry Baltoff is building a home at Partridge Heights that will be ready occupancy early in the summer. A. Nash is erecting a country home at same place. M. Roomish is having a home built at Cottagewood. E. E. Fie will soon commence the construction of commodious home at Rose Farm on upper lake.

A. E. Apgar is erecting a fine residence in the village of Excelsior. J. H. Rowell is doing some building at Euro. E. A. Newell is putting up some additional buildings on his place at Howat Point. E. A. Ross is constructing a cottage at Cottagewood on the lower lake.

MANY NEW COTTAGES.

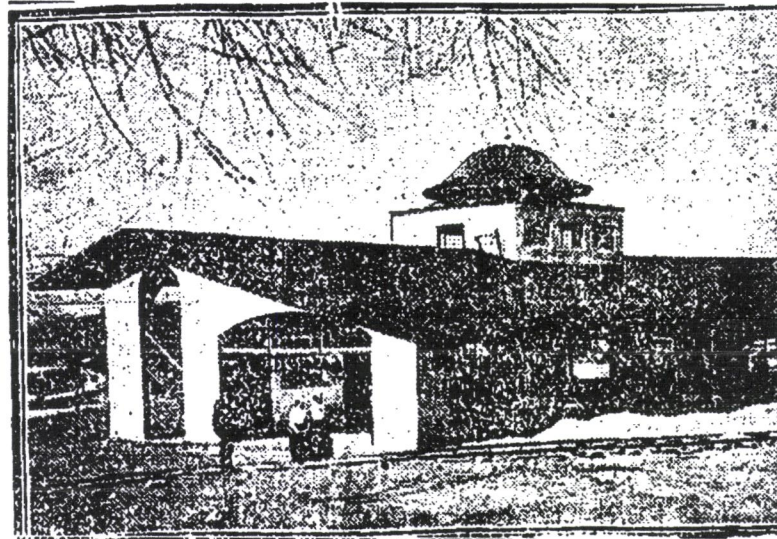
H. E. Marshall, who resides between the upper and lower lakes, is building a commodious home at Interlachen.

H. Amsden is erecting a lake cottage at Wildhurst that will soon be ready occupancy. J. B. Donnelly is building a commodious cottage near the Narrows.

J. E. Miner has been making some extensive improvements on his home at Excelsior. J. K. McBroom is building house and barn on Galpin's lake at Excelsior. Dr. Edson H. Russell built a house and barn on his country place near Excelsior. F. E. O'Connor is erecting a cottage on the south shore of the lake. A. W. Osbourne is doing some building at Minnewashta.

C. A. Hinds is erecting a house at Excelsior. C. Wassen is building a residence at Eureka. Minnetonka Beach is also building up this spring. The residence to be built there this season is a house for A. Burkholz.

A. Korber is putting up a good-sized house in Chanhassen. William Seer will have a new residence at Casco Point. A. Classen is putting up a country residence at Minnewashta. L. S. Gillette is adding to his buildings at Brentwood.



ONE OF THE NEW WAITING STATIONS AT MINNETONKA, ERRECTED FOR THE ACCOMMODATION OF VISITORS.

Spend Sunday at Minnetonka.

AMERICA'S MOST CHARMING LAKE

Frequent Fast Electric Cars to
 Excelsior, every hour to Deep-
 haven. Fare each way, only.....

25c

"Express" Boats from Excelsior to
 all parts of "Lower" and "Upper"
 lakes. Fare, each way, only.....

10c

For a great 3-1-2 hour tour of the entire lake (including Cook's Bay and Mound) take comfortable
 "Excursion" Boat leaving Excelsior at 9:15 or 10:35 a. m. or 1:45 or 3:15 p. m., arriving back
 at Excelsior at 1:00 or 5:30 p. m. All morning or all afternoon on the great lake for only.....

25c

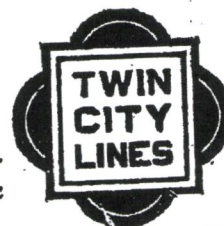
BIG ISLAND PARK

Is open full blast and bids you welcome! Free Boat transfers on all car fares from Minneapolis including
 admission to the most Beautiful Park in all the west. —

The World's Greatest Banda Rossa.

(40 of Italy's Famous Musicians) will give two superb concerts
 on Sunday at 3 and 8. p. m. — The Season's Musical Tre at.

Go to the Lake Tomorrow and Enjoy Such Pure Air and Beauti-
 ful Scenes as You Can Find Nowhere Else in All the Wide, Wide
 World.



Minneapolis Tribune (1867-1908); Jul 9, 1907;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Minneapolis Tribune (1867-1922)
pg. 8

IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMER TIME AT BIG ISLAND PARK Lake Minnetonka's Resort Beautiful!

Hi Jinks—The Picnic Person—
Sped out the Great White Way,
Good track, big cars, fast service,
All won his quick "O. K."
He transferred to the Ferry
With this well turned remark:
"If any trip's more pleasant,
I'll eat BIG ISLAND PARK."



A THRILLING COASTER
A JOLLY CAPROUSEL
\$30,000 MUSIC CASINO
ENCHANTED RIVER
YELLOWSTONE PARK
RESTAURANT
ROWBOATS
BALL GROUNDS
LAUGHING GALLERY
PHOTO POSTAL Gallery
DANCING
PICNIC KITCHENS
FINE TOILET ROOMS
GOOD DRINKING Water
PICNIC GROUNDS

EVERYBODY—as well as Mr. Jinks
—has a good time at Big Island
Park, which is indescribable in
its beauty—a grand, magnificent natu-
ral park on the most fascinating of all
inland lakes. An ideal picnic ground,
away from the noise and smoke of the
city. An island whose silent woods
with their stately grandeur fairly
thrills you.

Make up a Picnic Party and Go
Out This Week.

NO PLACE IN ALL THE
WORLD SO CHARMING.

BANDA ROSSA—The World's Greatest

Gives Concerts in Music Casino Daily at 3 and 8 p. m.

Tuesday--French Night.
Wednesday--Italian Night.

Thursday--Sorrentino Night.
Friday--Wagner Night.

Listening to Banda Rossa | "Only 60 Minutes
From 6th Street!"

That the night shall be filled with music
And the cares that infest the day
Shall "fold their tents like the Arabs,"
And as silently steal away.

Article 3 -- No Title
Minneapolis Tribune (1867-1908); May 28, 1908;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Minneapolis Tribune (1867-1922)
pg. 9

Big Island Park (LAKE MINNETONKA) Opens on Saturday *Brighter, Lovelier, Better Than Ever!*

65 ACRES OF SHOWS AND SHADE.
"THE PARK WITH A ROOF OF TREES."
FAST CAR AND FERRY SERVICE FROM
MINNEAPOLIS. FARE EACH WAY, IN-
CLUDING ADMISSION TO PARK, 25c.

DANCING SATURDAY, 3 AND 8 P. M.
Music by Wolff's Orchestra

GO TO BIG ISLAND PARK ON SATUR-
DAY. BIG ISLAND PARK, WITH SUN-
LIT SMILES AND LEAFY BOWERS,
BIDS YOU WELCOME.

Sunday "Battery B Band" will play two
concerts in Casino, 3 and 8:15 P. M.

Run Out on Sunday to Lake Minnetonka

Over Finest Electric Line in America---Cars Every 10 Minutes

Lake Minnetonka, with its Clearest Water, Greenest Shores, most Beautiful Foliage, offers you Varied and Incomparable Attractions
Six Delightful Steamboat Trips on New, Fast, Safe Comfortable Boats

Wayzata Express
Round Trip—14 Miles—2 Hours—20 Cents.

Minnetonka Beach Express
Round Trip—6 Miles—1 Hour—20 Cents.

Zumbra-Mound Express
Round Trip—15 Miles—2 Hours—20 Cents.

Spring Park Express
Round Trip—7 Miles—1 Hour—20 Cents.

"40-Mile Cruise"
Round Trip—40 Miles—3 Hours—25 Cents.

Big Island Ferry
Round Trip—4 Miles—45 Minutes—10 Cents

Beautiful Big Island Park

Theodore Martin, Director. Beautiful Picnic and Resting Grounds—Plenty of Clean, Wholesome Amusement Features—Restaurant—Everything to Please and Delight the Visitor.

Concerts in Music Casino
at 3 and 8 P. M., by
Imperial Orchestra, Mr.

Tonka Bay Hotel

day dinner---Fine Parlor Orchestra.

The Lake's Best Hotel, Fine Room-
and Table Service---Roller Skating
Casino---Just the place for your Sun-



Take the family, take your friends to Lake Minnetonka on Sunday.
Only 25 cents each way from any part of the city. This includes ferry trip
to Big Island Park and admission to Park.

Information Telephones—N. W. 2071—T. S. 3133.

Best Place to See Great Inland Lake Yacht Races At Lake Minnetonka—Aug. 17 to 21, Inclusive BIG ISLAND PARK

Plenty of Seats—Plenty of Shade—Best Views of Course

CLASS A.
Hendy Andy II, Oconomowoc Yacht club.
Algoma, Oshkosh Yacht club.
Oconomowoc, Oconomowoc Yacht club.
Black Point, Lake Geneva Yacht club.
Kathryn, Lake Battle des Morts.
Tomahawk, Minnetonka Yacht club.
Patty IV, Pistakee Yacht club.
Buttrick II, Fox Lake Yacht club.
Brunson, Delavan Lake Yacht club.
Regallier, Lake Geneva Country club.
Oswaldson or Troubadour, White Bear Yacht club.

Contesting Yachts in the Regatta

CLASS B.
Tonaw America, Duluth Yacht club.
Virginia, Oshkosh Yacht club.
Invader, Oconomowoc Yacht club.
Royal Flush, Calhoun Yacht club.
Butterfly, Minnetonka Yacht club.
Gopher, White Bear Yacht club.
Twenty-three, Lake Battle des Morts Yacht club.

CLASS C.
Patty, Oconomowoc Yacht club.
Edith, Lake Battle des Morts Yacht club.
Skip, Minnetonka Yacht club.
Dawdack, Pistakee Lake Yacht club.
Rose, Delavan Lake Yacht club.

Fare each way, Minneapolis to Big Island
Park, 25 cents. Information Telephones—
N. W. Main 2071—T. S. 3133.

To Reach
Big
Island Park

Take any Electric Car leaving Ticket Office, 17
North Sixth Street, Minneapolis, at 9:03 a. m., or
any hour up to 7:03 p. m., and transfer at Excel-
sior to Big Ferry Boat for Island.



OPENINGS AT LAKE

Many New Attractions This Summer at 'Tonka and Wildwood.

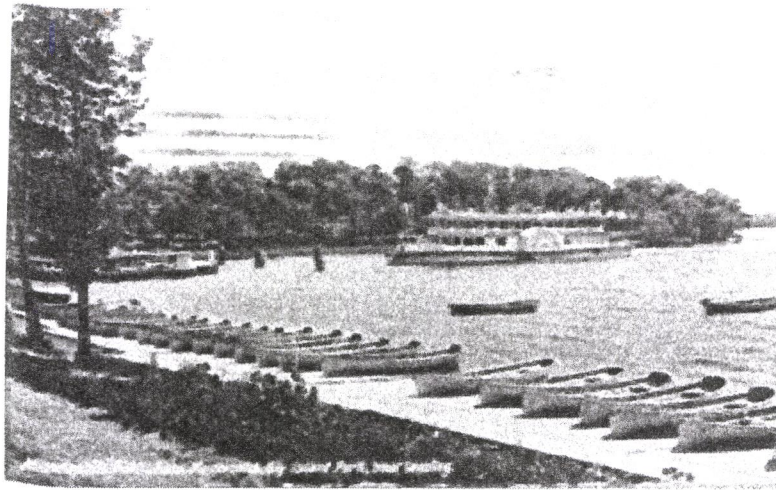
Big Island Park, Lake Minnetonka, will open for the season Memorial day. It will be a more attractive place for picnics and outings this year than ever before, with a number of new features. The attractions will include well equipped picnic kitchens for picnic parties, rowboats, carousel, coaster, trip

through Yellowstone Park, Pennyodeon, fun factory, mystic river and the music casino. There will be dancing every evening except Sunday, in the pavilion.

Sunday, May 31, the Battery B. band, consisting of 35 men, will give opening concerts at 3 o'clock in the afternoon and at 8:15 in the evening. Herbert T. Park is the director and among the features will be the saxophone quartette, the baritone solos of A. G. Miller, and cornet solos of W. P. Abbott. The Battery band will also give Sunday concerts on the afternoon and evening of Sunday, June 7.

Sunday, June 14, and continuing every afternoon and evening, concerts will be given in the Casino by some of the best musical organizations in the Northwest, to be announced later. The Imperial Orchestra, consisting of 25 players under direction of Theodore Martin, will open the season June 14 for three weeks.

Tonka Bay hotel will open June 13. Both Big Island Park and Tonka Bay hotel will be under the management of P. J. Metzdorf, hotel and park manager, Twin City lines, assisted by W. P. Hayes, formerly manager of the Windsor hotel, St. Paul. Mr. Metzdorf's assistant manager at Big Island Park will be Joseph H. Jansen, who filled the same position last year. The hotel has been thoroughly renovated. Music will be furnished by the Vivace Trio. The Skating Casino will open May 30 and



Rowboats were rented at Big Island Park.

there will be band concerts thereafter afternoons and evenings.

Wildwood, on the shores of White Bear lake, will open May 29. Prof. M. Guilbert's orchestra has been engaged for the season and will furnish dance programs afternoons and evenings, except Sunday, when sacred concerts will be given. New baseball grounds have

been laid out for the benefit of picnic parties and a number of improvements made in all the amusement features.

Wildwood offers many attractions and amusement features such as the figure 8, hours of the world, laughing gallery, Katzenjammer, castle, high-class bath houses, rowboats, bowling alleys, a fine dancing pavilion and picnic grounds.

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Display Ad 6 -- No Title

Minneapolis Tribune (1867-1908); Jul 2, 1908;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Minneapolis Tribune (1867-1922)

pg. 10

Spend the Glorious Fourth

(Likewise Sunday, the Fifth)

At Lake Minnetonka or Wildwood

On Beautiful
White Bear Lake

Lake Minnetonka's Attractions

Fast Electric cars every 10 minutes from Hennepin Ave. and 6th St., Minneapolis
—25c each way—including Ferry Trip to Big Island Park and admission to Park.

BIG ISLAND PARK

SPLENDID PATRIOTIC CONCERTS IN MUSIC CASINO
AT 3:00 AND 8:00 P. M. BY IMPERIAL ORCHESTRA.

Roller Coaster, Laughing Gallery, Pennyodeon, Yellowstone Park, Mystic River, Carrousel, Boating, Fishing. Finest Picnic Grounds and Beautiful Woods, Good Restaurant. Everything to Please the Old or Young.

FREE DANCING AFTERNOON AND EVENING OF THE 4th.

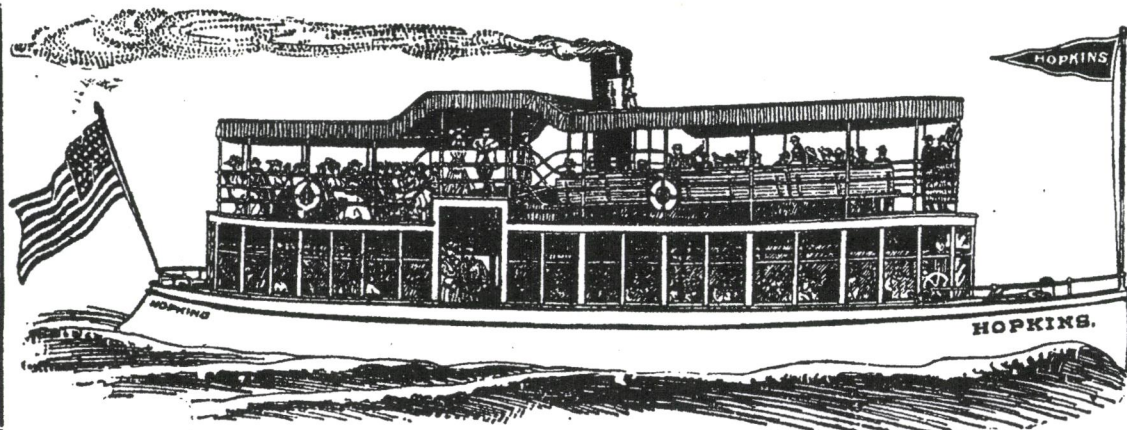
Wildwood's Attractions

Fast Electric Cars every 30 minutes from Wabasha & 7th Sts., St. Paul, 15c each way.

FINEST BATHING IN NORTHWEST!

Figure 8 Toboggan, Down the Flume,
Tours of the World, Laughing Gallery,
Katzenjammer Castle, Free Hooligan Slide,
Bowling Alleys, Boating, Fishing, Water TobogganFREE DANCING on the afternoon and evening of
the Fourth. Orchestra concerts
Sunday afternoon and evening. To See and Enjoy
Lake MinnetonkaComfortably, Inexpensively,
Delightfully

Take a "TWIN CITY BOAT"

Fast, Safe, Clean,
Comfortable.ROUND TRIPS ONLY 20c.
(Four different routes.)Forty Mile Cruise
3 1/2 Hours 25c

Spend the Week End

.. AT ..

TONKA BAY
HOTELMinnetonka's BEST Hotel in
Every Respect.Special 4th of July Hop
on Saturday Evening.St. Paul People Wanting to go to Lake Minnetonka, Big Island Park, Tonka Bay Hotel
should take any Interurban Car and transfer in Minneapolis at Hennepin Av. and 6th st., (or from
Selby-Lake line at Hennepin Av. and Lake st.) to Lake Minnetonka car. Fare each way from St. Paul 30c.Minneapolis People Wanting to go to Wildwood should take any Interurban car for St.
Paul and transfer to Wildwood Car at Wabasha and Seventh Sts. Fare each way 20 cents. Infor-
mation Telephones—In Minneapolis, N. W. 2071—Tri-State 3183. In St. Paul, N. W. 2616.

LAKE MINNETONKA'S DELIGHTFUL ATTRACTIONS

Big Island Park, the Resort Beautiful

"Nelson and His Good Band" In Music Casino every
Day at 3 and 8:15 p.m.
ALL SEATS FREE.

Roller Coaster, Mystic River, Yellowstone Park, Laughing Gallery, Carrousel, Fine Picnic Ground

Tonka Bay Hotel, the Lake's Best Hotel

Fine Room and Table Service, Orchestral Concerts, Informal Hops.

Roller Skating Casino at Tonka Bay

A fascinating place for young and old. Band concerts afternoons and evenings.

Steamboat Excursions-Six Routes

Round trips on Express Boats—one to two hours, only 20 cents.
Round trip on "Forty-Mile Cruise," 25 cents.

For information about any of the above attractions, please telephone
N.W. 2071, or 4580. T.S. 3133 or 3134, and it will be a pleasure to serve you.

Electric Cars from Minneapolis to Lake Minnetonka every 10 minutes on Sundays—Every
30 minutes on week days.



LAKE MINNETONKA'S DELIGHTFUL ATTRACTIONS! Big Island Park

Greenest Grass
Greatest Trees
Loveliest Foliage
Clearest Water

The Ideal Place for Family or Party Picnics

Well-Equipped Picnic Kitchens Plenty of Benches Good Fishing Carrousel
Beautiful Picnic Grounds and Woods Roller Coaster Fun Factory
Plenty of Pure Drinking Water Electric Theater Mystic River Pennyodcon

INFORMATION TELEPHONES:
N. W. Main 4580 or 2071. T. S. 3133 or 3134

Tonka Bay Hotel *The Lake's
Best Hotel.*

Fine Room and Table Service, Orchestral
Concerts, Informal Hops. Take your Din-
ner there when you are out at the lake.

Tonka Bay Roller Skating Casino

Best in the Northwest
Band Concerts Every Afternoon and Evening

Steamboat Excursions--5 Routes

Round Trips on Express Boats,
One to Two Hours, only 20 cents



Fast Electric Trains from Minneapolis to Lake Minnetonka every
10 minutes on Sundays—Every 30 minutes on Weekdays.

Display Ad 9 -- No Title
 Minneapolis Morning Tribune (1909-1922); Jun 20, 1909;
 ProQuest Historical Newspapers Minneapolis Tribune (1867-1922)
 pg. 24

BIG ISLAND PARK

LAKE MINNETONKA

FREE CONCERTS SUNDAY!

AFTERNOON AND EVENING

IN MUSIC CASINO---ALL SEATS FREE

Linguist Ladies' Symphony Orchestra

35 TALENTED ARTIST MUSICAINS

Go out on Sunday and here these Clever Young Women. You will be delighted. An Orchestra of Undoubted Ability.

Electric Cars on Sunday Every 10 Minutes to Lake Minnetonka!

N. W. 2071 ---INFORMATION TELEPHONES---T. S. 3133.

Display Ad 52 -- No Title
 Minneapolis Morning Tribune (1909-1922); Jun 26, 1910;
 ProQuest Historical Newspapers Minneapolis Tribune (1867-1922)
 pg. 18

Lake Minnetonka's Delightful Attractions

For Sunday, June 26th

Big Island Park---The Twin Cities' Ideal Picnic Resort

Good Amusements for Old and Young---FREE BAND CONCERTS Sunday Afternoon and Evening.

By Famous 28th Infantry Band, U. S. A.
 From Fort Snelling---40 Pieces.



AFTERNOON CONCERT.

March—"The Boy Brigade" Pamela
 Overture—"Foot and Heel" Snipe
 Waltz—"To Paris" Waldtrufel
 Solo for Cornet—"Columbian Folk" Tontzetti
 Sgt. Alfred Grimes.
 March—"Down the Trail" Piper
 March—"Berliner Luft" Lucke
 Grand Fantasia—"Bohemian Girl" Bufe
 Idyll—"The Mill in the Forest" Bufe
 Selection—"From 'The Golden Girl'" Howard
 March—"Federation" Klotz

EVENING CONCERT.

March—"The Pacemaker" Zickie
 Overture—"Hungarian Comedy" Keller Bela
 Waltz—"Meln Thuneeen" Klesler
 Trombone Solo—"The Half City" Adams
 March—"Jolly Bachelors" Hubbel
 March—"The Diplomat" Souan
 Selection—"Torquato Pasqu" Tonisetti
 Overture—"Berliner Luft" Lucke
 March—"When the Band Plays 'Home, Sweet Home'" Furth

TONKA BAY HOTEL

THE LAKE'S BEST HOTEL—Fine Room and Table Service, Orchestra Concerts.
 Take your Sunday Dinner there.

Tonka Bay Roller Skating Casino

BEST IN THE NORTHWEST.
 Band Concerts Every Afternoon and Evening.

To See and Enjoy Lake Minnetonka Comfortably, Inexpensively, Delightfully,
 Take a "Twin City Express Boat"---Fast, Safe, Clean, Comfortable.

WAYZATA EXPRESS	MINNETONKA BEACH EXPRESS	ZUMBRA EXPRESS	SPRING PARK EXPRESS
Round Trip—14 Miles—	Round Trip—6 Miles—	Round Trip—10 Miles—	Round Trip—7 Miles—
2 Hours..... 20c	1 Hour..... 20c	1 Hour..... 20c	1 Hour..... 20c

SPECIAL SUNDAY BOAT SERVICE BETWEEN BIG ISLAND PARK and TONKA BAY HOTEL

Leave Hotel for Park—12 noon, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 p. m. Leave Park for Hotel—12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 p. m.
 Fare each way between Park and Hotel, 10 cents.

Fast Electric Cars from Minneapolis to Lake Every 10 Minutes Sundays

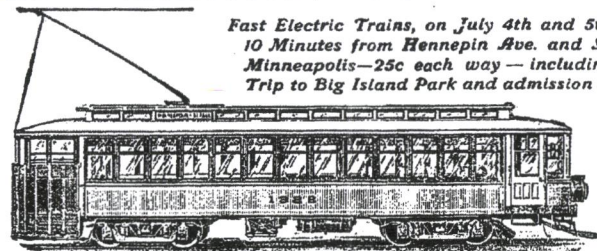
Spend Glorious "4th and 5th" AT Lake Minnetonka or Wildwood

On White Bear Lake



Lake Minnetonka's Attractions

Fast Electric Trains, on July 4th and 5th, every 10 Minutes from Hennepin Ave. and Sixth St., Minneapolis—25c each way—including Ferry Trip to Big Island Park and admission to Park.



BIG ISLAND PARK

The Isle of Greenest Grass, Greatest Trees, Loveliest Foliage, Clearest Water.

The Ideal Place for Family or Party Picnics

Well-Equipped Picnic Kitchens
 Beautiful Picnic Grounds and Woods
 Plenty of Pure Drinking Water
 Plenty of Benches
 Good Fishing
 Roller Coaster Fun Factory
 Pennyodeon
 Electric Theater Mystic River
 Carousel

Free Concerts

Afternoons and Evenings of "4th and 5th" in MUSIC CASINO (all seats free).

Liquist's
 Ladies' Symphony
 Orchestra

Dancing Afternoon and evening, July 5
 Music by Wolff's orchestra.

Tonka Bay Roller Skating Casino Best in the Northwest

BAND CONCERTS EVERY AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

Tonka Bay Hotel, under management of "Twin City Lines," is Lake Minnetonka's best hotel in every respect. Take your dinner there when you are out at the Lake.

Special Boat Service between Tonka Bay Hotel and Big Island Park, July 4 and 5, as follows:

Leave Hotel for Park—12 noon and every hour to 8 p. m.

Leave Park for Hotel—12:30 p. m. and every hour to 7:30 p. m.

FARE EACH WAY BETWEEN HOTEL AND PARK, 10C.

St. Paul People Wanting to go to Lake Minnetonka, Big Island Park, Tonka Bay Hotel or Deephaven, should take any Interurban Line for Minneapolis—"Minneapolis & St. Paul," "Como-Harriet-Hopkins," "Selby-Lake" or "Suelling-Minnehaha" (the New Scenic Route) and transfer in Minneapolis to "Lake Minnetonka" train. Fare from any local line in St. Paul to Lake Minnetonka by transfer, 30c each way.

Wildwood's Attractions

Fast Electric Trains on "4th and 5th" every 15 minutes from Wabasha and 7th St., St. Paul—15c each way.

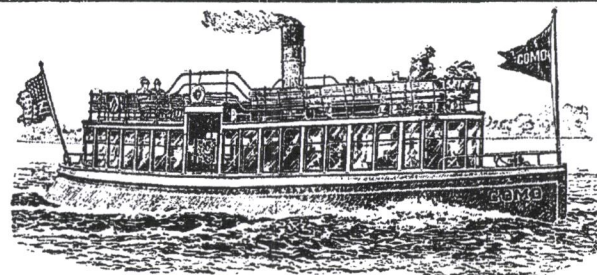
Beautiful New Casino

With Fine Dance Hall, Promenades, Lunch Room, Refreshment Counters.

Plenty of Things to Do at Wildwood on "4th and 5th"

Bathing Best Beach in Northwest.	Dancing Afternoon and Evening—Free	Laughing Gallery For Laughing Purposes Only.
Boating A Fine Fleet of Rowboats.	Bowling Alleys Plenty of Alleys.	Figure 8 Coaster Nothing Better for "The Blues"
Fishing White Bear is Full of Fish	Down the Flume An Amusement You Will Enjoy	Miniature Railway Get Aboard and You'll Like It

SACRED CONCERT SUNDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING



To See and Enjoy Lake Minnetonka on the "4th and 5th"
 Comfortably, Inexpensively, Delightfully, Take a "Twin City Express Boat"—Fast, Safe, Clean, Comfortable.

WAYZATA EXPRESS.

Round Trip 14 Miles—2 Hours—20 Cents.

MINNETONKA BEACH EXPRESS.

Round Trip 6 Miles—1 Hour—20 Cents.

ZUMBRA EXPRESS.

Round Trip 10 Miles—1 Hour—20 Cents.

SPRING PARK EXPRESS.

Round Trip 7 Miles—1 Hour—20 Cents.

Minneapolis People Wanting to go to Wildwood should take any Interurban Line for St. Paul—"Minneapolis & St. Paul," "Como-Harriet-Hopkins," "Selby-Lake" or "Suelling-Minnehaha" (the New Scenic Route) and transfer in St. Paul to Wildwood train. Fare from any local line in Minneapolis to Wildwood by transfer, 20 cents each way.

Information Telephones—Minneapolis, N. W. Main 2071, 4580; T. S. 3133, 3134. St. Paul, N. W. Cedar 2616.

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Display Ad 12 -- No Title

Minneapolis Morning Tribune (1909-1922); May 26, 1910;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Minneapolis Tribune (1867-1922)
pg. 10

Big Island Park

Lake Minnetonka's Famous Picnic Resort

OPENS ON SATURDAY, MAY 28



The Twin Cities' Ideal Outing Place for Sunday School, Club, Society, Lodge or Private Picnics

Well Equipped Picnic Kitchens
Plenty of Pure Drinking Water
Good Restaurant, Popular Prices

Plenty of Benches
Plenty of Rowboats
Good Fishing

Roller Coaster
Fun Factory
Pennyodeon

Electric Theater
Mystic River
Carousell

**Big Island Park Is "The Isle of Greenest
Grass, Clearest Water, Loveliest Foliage"**

DANCING AT PARK ON DECORATION DAY
Afternoon and Evening—Good Music

ROLLER SKATING IN CASINO---TONKA BAY

In which will be given

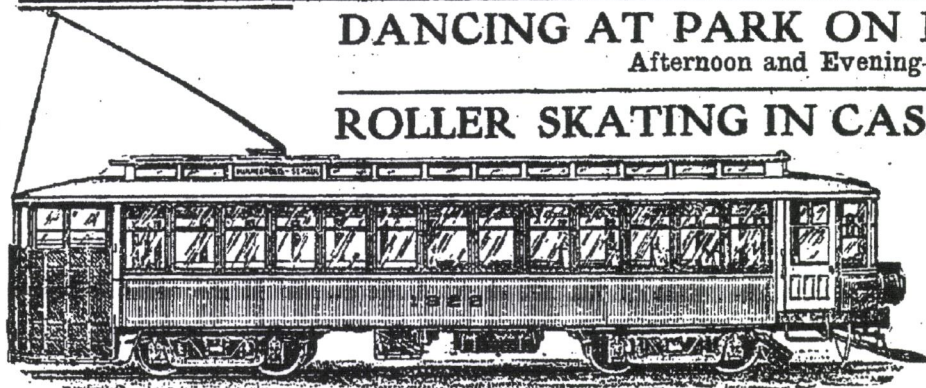
Band Concerts

Every Saturday and Sunday

Afternoon and Evening

Commencing

Saturday, May 28



Tonka Bay Hotel Opens on June 15

P. J. METZDORF, Hotel and Park Manager, "Twin City Lines."

To See and Enjoy Lake Minnetonka

Comfortably, Inexpensively, Delightfully, take a "Twin City Express Boat"—Fast, Safe, Clean, Comfortable.

WAYZATA EXPRESS

ROUND TRIP—14 MILES—2 HOURS—20 CENTS

MINNETONKA BEACH EXPRESS

ROUND TRIP—6 MILES—1 HOUR—20 CENTS

ZUMBRA EXPRESS

ROUND TRIP—10 MILES—1 HOUR—20 CENTS

SPRING PARK EXPRESS

ROUND TRIP—7 MILES—1 HOUR—20 CENTS

For Train and Boat Information and Time Tables call at Ticket Office and Waiting Room, 17, N. Sixth St. Telephones—N. W. 3071 M.; T. S. 3133
For information as to Big Island Park please telephone A. W. Warnock, General Passenger Agent, Hennepin and Eleventh, N. W. 4580 M.; T. S. 3134



ATTRACTIONS FOR THE "3rd AND 4th"

NEXT SUNDAY AND MONDAY--AT

Lake Minnetonka and Wildwood On White Bear Lake

HOW TO GO TO LAKE MINNETONKA

FROM MINNEAPOLIS—Take an Electric Train at Ticket Office and Waiting Room, 17 North Sixth St. Ten-Minute Service on "3rd and 4th." Fare from Minneapolis to Excelsior, Deephaven, Tonka Bay or Big Island Park, 25 cents each way, or 20 cents with transfer from any Minneapolis local line.
 FROM ST. PAUL—Take a "Solby-Lake" Car and transfer to Train for Lake Minnetonka at Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, or take a "Como-Harriet," "Como-Hopkins," "Minneapolis & St. Paul" or "Smelling-Minnehaha" Car and transfer to Train for Lake Minnetonka at Sixth St., Minneapolis. Fare, from St. Paul, 30 cents each way, or 25 cents with transfer from any St. Paul local line.

Big Island Park The Twin Cities' Ideal Picnic Resort

Beautiful Picnic Grounds and Woods
 Well Equipped Picnic Kitchens
 Plenty of Pure Drinking Water
 Plenty of Benches and Tables
 Boating—Fishing—Roller Coaster
 Penny Arcade—Mystic River—Carroussel
 Fun Factory—Electric Theater
 Good Restaurant—Popular Prices

Dancing Afternoon and Evening
 of "The Fourth." Good Music.

SPLENDID FREE CONCERTS

In Music Casino (all seats FREE) Afternoons and Evenings of
 "3rd and 4th" by

28th Infantry Band, U. S. A. Forty artist players

At Tonka Bay Roller Skating Casino

TONKA BAY HOTEL The Lake's best Hotel in every respect. Special 6 o'clock dinner served on "3rd and 4th." One Dollar. Fine Orchestral Program.

HOW TO GO TO WILDWOOD

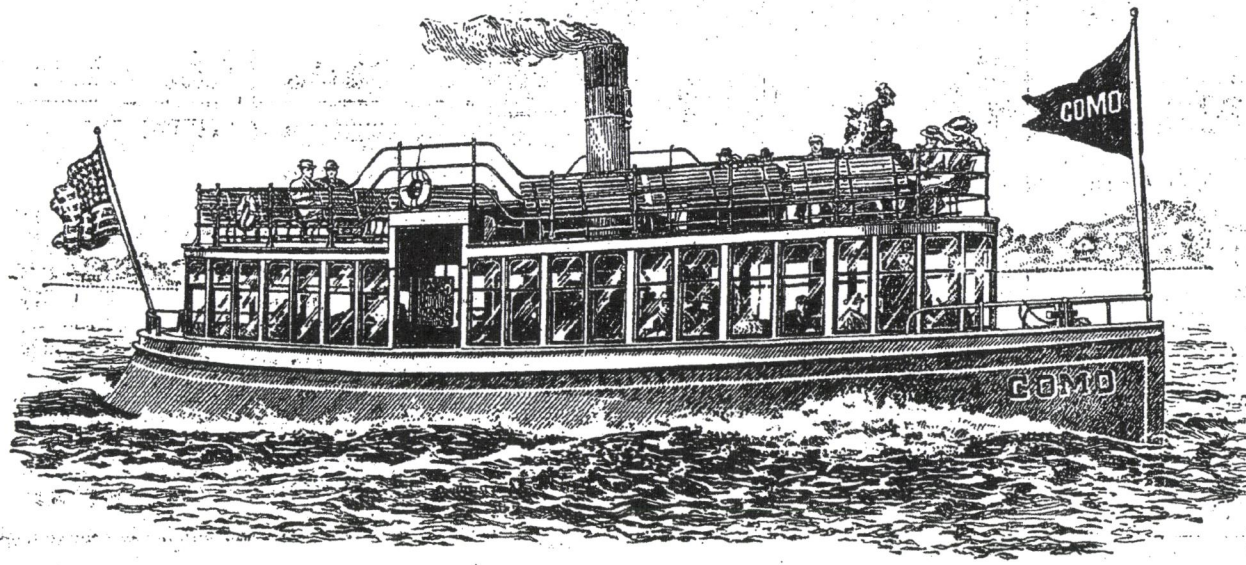
FROM ST. PAUL—Take an Electric Train at Wabasha and Seventh Streets. Fifteen-minute Service on "3rd and 4th." Fare, from St. Paul to Wildwood, 15 cents each way, or 10 cents with transfer from any St. Paul local line.
 FROM MINNEAPOLIS—Take any Interurban Car for St. Paul and transfer to train for Wildwood at Wabasha and Seventh Streets, St. Paul. Fare, from Minneapolis, 20 cents each way, or 15 cents with transfer from any Minneapolis local line.

Beautiful New Casino With Fine Dance Hall, Promenades, Lunch Room, Refreshment Counters

Plenty of Things to Do at Wildwood on "3rd & 4th"

Bathing Best Beach in Northwest.	Dancing Monday Afternoon and Evening—Free	Laughing Gallery For Laughing Purposes Only
Boating A Fine Fleet of Rowboats	Bowling Alleys Plenty of Alleys.	Figure 8 Coaster Nothing Better for "the Blues"
Fishing White Bear Is Full of Fish	Down the Flume An Amusement You Will Enjoy	Miniature Railway Get Aboard and You'll Like It.

Free Orchestral Concerts Sunday Afternoon and Evening



To See and Enjoy Lake Minnetonka on the "3rd and 4th"

Comfortably--Inexpensively--Delightfully

Take a
 "Twin City Express Boat"
 Fast--Safe--Clean.

WAYZATA EXPRESS.
 Round Trip—14 Miles—2 Hours—
 20 Cents.
MINNETONKA BEACH EXPRESS.
 Round Trip—6 Miles—1 Hour—
 20 Cents.

ZUMBRA EXPRESS.
 Round Trip—10 Miles—1 Hour—
 20 Cents.
SPRING PARK EXPRESS.
 Round Trip—7 Miles—1 Hour—
 20 Cents.

WORK

Begins at Big Island, Lake Minnetonka, on New Playground for Public

Which Is Being Planned for Amusement Park by Rapid Transit Co.

There is no longer a doubt of the Twin City Rapid Transit company's intention to make Big Island, Minnetonka, the playground for the thousands of pleasure seekers who will patronize the new Excelsior line.

CLEAR OUT WEEDS.

A big crew of men with carloads of tools and camping outfits began work early yesterday morning for the purpose of clearing out the weeds and underbrush preparatory to the labors of the landscape gardener, who will make of Mr. Goodrich's sixty-three acres one of the prettiest show places in the country.

The work of clearing away the brush, draining low places, cutting out trees and making the grounds fit for picnics and outing parties will be prosecuted vigorously until snow flies. There is much to be done, and it is the company's hope to have the grounds in readiness for the improvements which will be undertaken next spring.

Just what will be done to provide amusement for the thousands who will throng to Minnetonka because of the facilities afforded by the new line cannot be stated positively as yet for the reason that the street railway officials do not know themselves. But the improvements will be colossal and of a character to catch crowds of 10,000 to 20,000 on Sunday and holidays.

One important feature will be a fine bathing beach, which will accommodate thousands of bathers along the picturesque eastern shore of the island. Bath houses will be built to accommodate immense numbers, swimming instructors and careful attendants will be on hand,

in the hope of making this feature of the pleasure ground one of the most attractive.

There will also be large bowling alleys, a magnificent band, and dozens of wholesome, sane attractions which will appeal to sensible people.

Island Park Is Abandoned; Street Car Boat Fare Cut
Minneapolis Morning Tribune (1909-1922): Feb 9, 1912.
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Minneapolis Tribune (1867-1922)
pg. 8

Island Park Is Abandoned; Street Car Boat Fare Cut

Minnetonka Recreation Place to Remain Closed Permanently
—Ferry Service Stopped.

Passengers Can Get Ten-Ride Books for Lake Express Boats for a Dollar.

The Twin City Rapid Transit company announces that Big Island park will be closed permanently. In the summer schedule for 1912 it was announced that the ferry service would be discontinued between Excelsior and Big Island park. No announcement was made regarding the disposal of the property, or what was to be done with the paraphernalia and buildings.

In announcing the Lake Minnetonka service for 1912 the general passenger agent stipulated that a new ten-ride ticket would be sold for \$1, or 10 cents a ride, on regular line express boats, but not excursion boats. The fare on the express boats was raised, last summer to 25 cents. Cash fares will remain 25 cents, but the new commutation ticket will place the price of a ride on the lakes back where it was summer before last.

The full summer train and boat schedule will commence May 15 and will end Sept. 30. The same train schedules will be in effect on the Excelsior, "Tonka Bay" and Deephaven lines as during the season of 1911, with the added service during the months of June, July and August of a fast train to leave the Sixth street ticket office every night at 9:28 p. m. for Deephaven, and to leave Deephaven at 10:15 p. m. for Minneapolis.

The express boat schedule will be the same as 1911. The new ten-ride tickets will be transferable and receivable for fare for any number of persons. For instance, a passenger may have a party of nine with him and one of these ten-ride tickets will be accepted as fare for the ten passengers. These tickets will be on sale at all ticket offices.

If a passenger gets aboard an express boat without a ticket his cash fare will be 25 cents. All other trip and commutation rates will remain the same as last year.

Veterans Camp

In 1920 the Twin City Rapid Transit Company former owners of the Amusement Park, and still owners of the property, lent the land to World War I (The Great War) disabled veterans for use as a Veterans Rest Camp.

The two remaining buildings from the Amusement Park, the bunkhouse and kitchen / dining room served as the camps main buildings until 1947 when the Board of Governors built the Great Hall on the foundation of the old Water & Light tower. The two Amusement Park buildings sat largely abandon serving as storage until new buildings were built in 1976, then totally abandoned until their demise in 1987.

Back to 1923, a Board of Governors was established and the site was formally the Big Island Veterans Camp. 1947 saw the Board purchase the land from the Twin City Rapid Transit Company, and the Great Hall was built.

The Camps heyday came to an end in 1983 which was the last year the Great Hall remained open. Built in 1947 it had fallen into local and state code violations, and disrepair. Expense was the main reason for it's closure. With attendance now falling off dramatically, it was easier and cheaper to make the area a campsite only. The Camp's epitaph at this point, is being written.

The year 2000 saw the last semblance of the camp. In 2001 the Camp unofficially closed. It was totally abandon in 2003. In January of 2006 the Board of Governors sold the site to the city of Orono, and the Veterans Camp officially went down in the annals of history. The Great Hall survived almost 60 years. It was burned to the ground, razed, by the city of Orono on June 29th, 2006.

TONKA BAY HOTEL

TONKA BAY HOTEL
Tonka Bay.
Lake Minnetonka

The first of the large resort hotels at Lake Minnetonka was the Minnetonka Lake Park Hotel at Minnetonka Lake Park. The name of the community and hotel was subsequently changed to Lake Park and, about 1904, Tonka Bay. 220 acres of well-timbered land was purchased by the Northwestern Sunday School Association in 1869 (sic) for a religious assembly grounds. The original purpose was to conduct religious activities similar to those carried out by the chautauqua movement: summer sessions for instruction, conventions for Sunday Schools, and assemblies for temperance advocates.

The hotel building was designed by architect L. S. Buffington; an oblong frame structure situated on a high area providing a beautiful view of the lake. Construction was completed in the spring of 1879. The building was 420 ft. long, three stories high with verandas on all floors and on all sides, topped by a main tower with observation balconies, three smaller towers and three cupolas.

After one season the management gave up the religious activities in favor of more recreational pursuits for vacationers. However a decline in tourist traffic began about 1882; it was reported that year the Lake Park Hotel was doing the best business of the hotels on the lake but even that was not up to expectations.

The Association becoming deeply involved in debt, the property was purchased by I. C. Seely and N. S. Griswold and turned into a summer resort. June 17, 1883: "The Lake Park Hotel is ready to hold its formal opening as a resort hotel. Sixteen electric lights, new amusement hall for billiards and dancing parties, and a staff of nearly 100 people to serve 600 guests." "By August 1, 1883, the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway would be sending its first trains over track which had been extended to the door of the hotel." "Later in the summer [August 2nd] the Lake Park Pavilion would be ready to offer dancing and roller skating." Another contemporaneous account reported the following. "Lake Park Hotel, one of the most popular resorts in the west, and second largest on the lake, is now under a new management, and it promises to retain all its former popularity, and be one of the best patronized houses on Minnetonka. It has over a hundred rooms, and is supplied with electric lights, and all other modern conveniences. C. H. McIntyre, proprietor of the Metropolitan Hotel, St. Paul, is its present manager. A fleet of about 35 boats, row and sail, with outfits for fishing, and refreshments, confectionary, etc., are to be found at the dock and boat house of C. W. Cyphers at the steamer landing. A fine amusement hall, billiard hall with 8 fine tables, and a well equipped refreshment stand, are located on the lake shore near the hotel. The amusement hall has a roller skating rink 60 x 100 feet with one of the best floors in the west. The Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway runs direct to Lake Park, the depot being located but a few rods from the hotel."

A more detailed description of the facilities is given in the appended reproduction of a tourist guide dating to about the same time period. Another description is quoted following. "Main entrance led to a first floor office with parlor, reception room, reading room, and barbershop at the center of the building. A dining room capable of seating 400 persons formed part of a separate building entered from the office and rear veranda by a covered passage. A hall running the full length of the building gave every room an exit to the hall inside and to a balcony outside. 250 acres of property and nearly five miles of shoreline. The hotel had its own boat fleet for fishing and pleasure, and a large wharf for lake steamboats. Tennis courts and baseball grounds were available. There was a billiard hall in one section of the pavilion on the lake shore near the hotel. The pavilion, originally called Lake Park Amusement Hall, now called the Lake Park Pavilion, included a theater for plays and summer opera, and a ballroom for dancing parties that enjoyed the most popular orchestras of the day."

Reference was made in May 1884 to the management of the hotel being under the direction of Thomas Lowry, W. H. Truesdale, and the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway. (As of 6-30-1900 the railway owned 50% of the hotel.) As the railroads made additional resort territory to the north and west more accessible, the number of tourists from other parts of the U.S. visiting the lake gradually declined. By 1890 the height of the resort era at Lake Minnetonka had been reached. The nationwide financial depression of 1893 did not help matters. The Lake Park Hotel however was extensively remodeled and renovated during 1904-1905, renamed the Tonka Bay Hotel, and continued in operation under the ownership of the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway.

With TCRT's expansion to Lake Minnetonka in 1905-1906, apparently Thomas Lowry decided to get TCRT in the hotel business as well. He must have purchased the hotel property from the M&StL Ry for on 11-21-1907 the real estate and hotel buildings were conveyed by Thomas and Beatrice Lowry to the Minneapolis & St. Paul Suburban Railway. The M&StL Ry. branch line to Tonka Bay was leased and electrified. The branch line lease included the following real estate: (1) a parcel containing the dance hall; (2) Rotunda Reserve; (3) a parcel containing the loop track; (4) Lake View Reserve (lying south of the right-of-way); and (4) Lots 17-18, Wildhurst.

~~Refer to the highlighted paragraph in the Appendix~~ ^{See the} 1908 Street Railway Journal article on ~~Big Island Park~~ ^{FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS.} The hotel was overhauled and brought up to a high standard of excellence, and opened under TCRT's management June 13, 1908. According to promotional literature it was the lake's largest and best hotel, the favored spot of tourists who came every summer to spend their vacation at the lake. Meals were served at all hours, a la carte or table d'hote. Cuisine and service were of the highest standards. Rooms were offered single or en suite, with or without bath, at rates of \$3 to \$5 per day. Special rates were quoted for families or parties for the season.

The real estate conveyed to the Minnetonka & White Bear Navigation Co. by the Minneapolis & St. Paul Suburban Railway in 12-31-1910 corporate reorganization comprised the following.

Hotel Reserve.

Onagon Reserve.

Lots 62, 63, 72, 77 and 78.

An area bounded by Onagon St., Wapeda St., Cedar St., and a line parallel to Minnekomin Ave.- Aspen St.

An area bounded by Wapeda St., Cedar St., Park St. and Waseca Ave.

A parcel containing the roller skating rink.

Two parcels identified only by Deed Number D938.

With regard to the real estate involved in the M&StL Ry Tonka Bay branch line lease, the M&WBN Co. was given only such interest as "necessary or convenient to the maintenance and operation of amusement parks, hotel and navigation business".

The buildings conveyed to the M&WBN Co. in the 12-31-1910 reorganization were as follows.

Tonka Bay Hotel	not given	3-story, frame
Tonka Bay Hotel Laundry	20' x 60'	1-story, frame
	7'6" x 8' ell	1-story, frame
Casino (roller skating rink)	82' x 190'	1-story, frame
	40' x 48' ell	1-story, frame
Dancing Pavilion	60' x 96'	1-story, frame
Ice House	24'6" X 65'	1-story, frame
Engine Room	32'6" x 36'6"	1-story, frame
	12'6" x 26' ell	1-story, frame
2 Pumping Stations		

The nationwide financial recession during 1907-1911 also had its effect on the resort hotel business. A tabulation of the financial results of the hotel operations from 1908 thru 1911 show

that the hotel business was never profitable. The Tonka Bay Hotel was permanently closed August 28, 1911. Official notice of the closing was sent during February 1912.

After the closing of the hotel, disposition of the property took quite some time and the accounting records are not entirely clear as to how this was accomplished.

- 1912 Dancing Pavilion sold to W. O. Williams. Some furniture sold(*).
- 1913 Credits to the property account for disposals were: hotel \$2,620 (January and February) and laundry \$500 (February).
- 1914 Bathtubs and plumbing sold to Cleveland Wrecking Co. in February. Two hundred pairs of roller skates sold.
- 1916 Generator set sold for \$275.
- 1919 Net credit to the property account for \$328 marked "Big Island Park and Tonka Bay Hotel-Excelsior Docks". 345 L.F. of scrap T rail used for reinforcing the cesspool was sold.
- 1922 Roller Skating Rink sold (July) to E. M. Amogast for \$1,100. On January 23, 1920, Horace Lowry offered the rink as a gift to Excelsior if the town would pay the expense of moving it. Apparently it was sold instead. We do know that it was dismantled, moved by barge to the lake shore, and rolled across the road to its new location in Excelsior (across the street from the Excelsior Amusement Park). Some of the structure was moved by truck. Renamed the Lake View Park Pavilion, it would divide its time between roller skaters and dancers until it became Big Reggie's Danceland. It was destroyed by fire in 1973.

Various small parcels of real estate were sold in 1918, 1919, 1920, 1924 and 1925. In 1924 there was a debit of \$384.60 to the real estate account.

Apparently the major portion of the real estate was sold 4-13-1923 to C. H. Kohler and M. T. Bentzen, 1211 McKnight Building, Minneapolis, for \$22,481.20 under a contract for deed. As of 2-13-1925 they had paid \$8,000 on the principal, leaving a balance of \$14,481.20. Payments were being made in during 1926 and 1927 but appear to have been continually slow. At 6-1-1928 the Northwestern Suburban Realty Co., Mathew (sp) Bentzen, President, c/o N.W. Metalware Co., 1401 Central Ave., Minneapolis, issued eight Notes Payable to M&WBN Co. totaling \$9,000 one due annually 6-1-1929 thru 6-1-1935. Apparently payments were slow and/or delinquent during 1931-1932. In 1933 the Valuation Record Additions for the M&WBN Co. listed real estate transferred to it: Tonka Bay Hotel property, 14.208 acres, cost \$17,160.36. Some real estate was sold in 1944 but the journals end with 1945 and give no hint as to when or to whom the re-posessed real estate was resold.

(*) MPLS. TRIBUNE 4-11-1912 ALL FURNISHINGS TO BE SOLD TODAY.

Another source says that two years after the Hotel closed in 1911 the building was being razed. The wrecking company invited people to bring their teams to get cheap lumber, siding, lath, timbers, sash, doors and brick.

SEE MPLS. TRIBUNE 1-16-1913 ON FOLLOWING PAGES.

Tonka Bay Hotel
M&StL Ry Branch Line
(From M&StL Ry History)

The M&StL Ry purchased a one-half interest in the Lake Park Hotel during 1879. (Probably at W.D. Washburn's behest. Carried on the M Washburn's behest. Carried on the M&StL books at \$15,000.

Service to the hotel at Tonka Bay in addition to regular runs to Winthrop and Watertown:
1889 season: four round trips. 1896 season: eight round trips. 1900 season: five round trips.
Many special excursions to Excelsior and the Lake Park Hotel. Had a depot and telegraph office at Tonka Bay.

1895: built an engine house and installed a turntable at Excelsior.

1896: Installed tables and swings at the Lake Park picnic grounds, extended the hotel's dock, dug a new well, and built a new powerhouse and electric plant.

By 1900 the total cost on M&StL's books was \$17,859. AFE Numbers 900,1603,1968,2317,3615.
Mpjs Journal 6-16-1907, 7-3-1907.

Lost money every year, \$11,549 in 1897 alone. By the end of the century it was able to break even.

1902: new pavilion (60 ft. x 80 ft.) (replaced one that had burned), sidewalks and arc lights were authorized and the Tonka Bay depot was painted.

1905: Water tank, pump house and Excelsior depot were painted. (That depot had been painted five years earlier.)

Early in the century (1904-1905) the Lake Park Hotel was disposed of to Thomas Lowry who earlier had taken a one-half interest in the property.

10-1-1907: leased the 1.45 mile Tonka Bay Branch line to the Minneapolis & St. Paul Suburban Railway.

TONKA BAY HOTEL

Lake Minnetonka IS NOW OPEN FOR GUESTS

TONKA BAY HOTEL, beautifully located at Tonka Bay on the South Shore of Lake Minnetonka, and the terminus of the "Twin City Lines," is the lake's largest and best hotel. For many years it has been the favored spot for tourists, who come every summer, to spend their vacation at this ideal resort.

Meals are served at all hours, a la carte or table d'hôte, and the table offers the best and freshest that the market affords. The cuisine and service are of the highest standard and are as good as a liberal management can make them.

All sleeping rooms are large and commodious and have outside windows, which insure the full benefit of the delightful lake breezes. Single or en suite, with or without baths. Children are welcome and every convenience is provided for their welfare.

Rates are very reasonable, being from \$3 to \$5 per day. Special rates for families or parties for the season.

The Tonka Bay Hotel has recently passed into the hands of the "Twin City Lines," and has been thoroughly overhauled and brought up to the high standard of excellence maintained by that company.

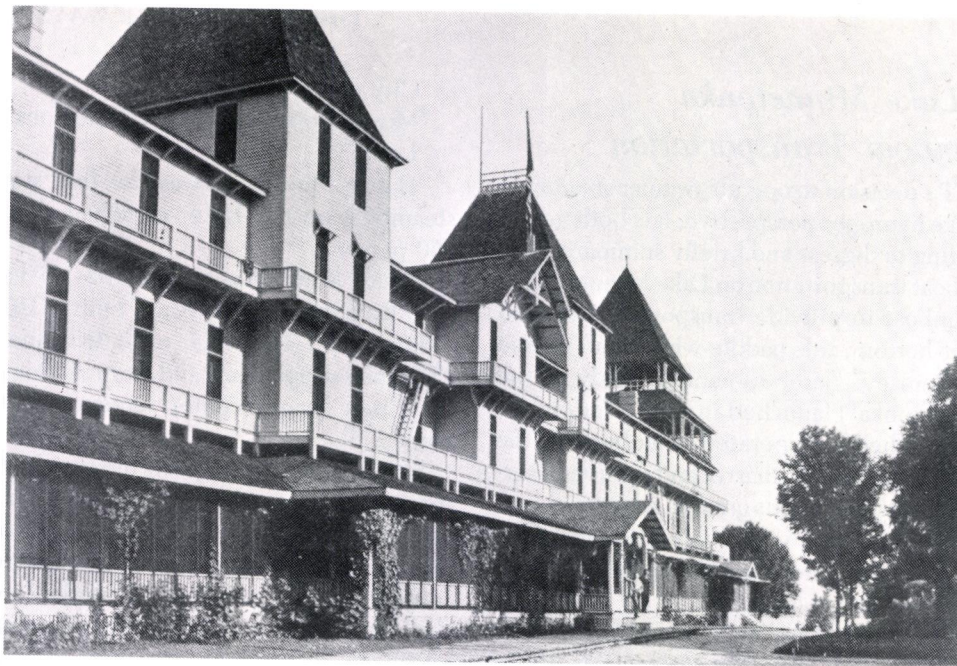
Information Telephones---Minneapolis, N. W. 4580
St. Paul, N. W. 2616

HOTEL IMPROVEMENTS.

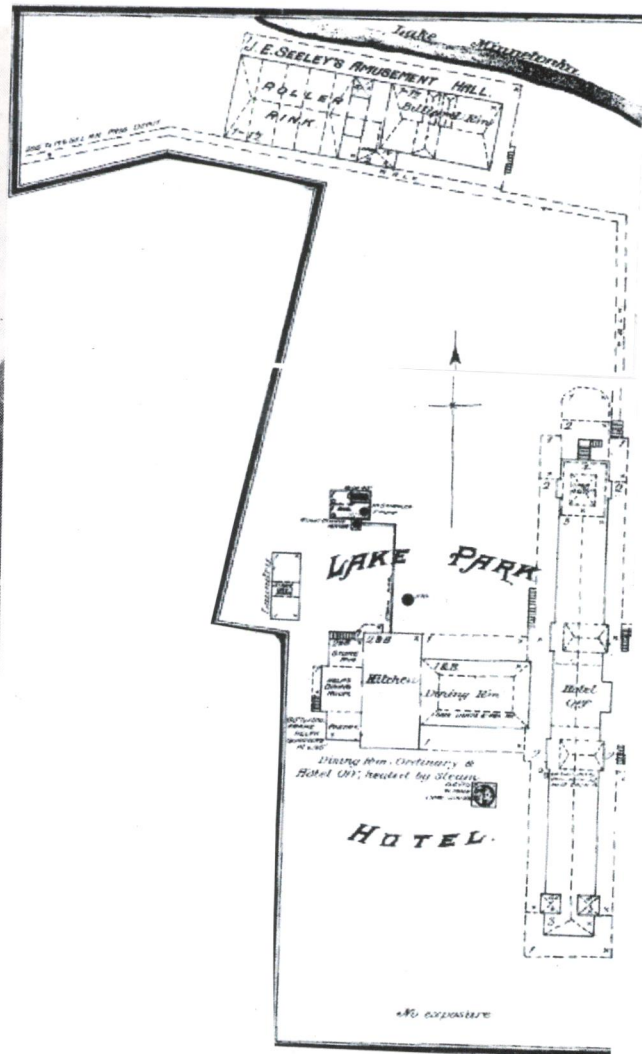
Numerous and important changes are being made in all the hotels about the lake, with the exception of the Arlington house, which, it now seems probable, will not be opened this season. The new Hotel Lafayette, a full and detailed description of which appears in to-day's supplement to THE TRIBUNE, is already framed and its mammoth proportions and commanding site indicate that it will take from the first a front place in the line of hostelryes. The Hotel St. Louis is being enlarged by having its entire upper floor converted into sleeping rooms; an addition, containing fifty rooms, will be put up; the house will be refitted throughout, and perhaps refurnished; a new pavilion and boat house will be built at the landing, and the grounds will be leveled off and arranged in delightful walks and arbors. A livery stable, cottages, shooting gallery, bowling alley, billiard hall and numerous other things are talked of but not yet decided upon. The Lake Park hotel is being raised a story higher, thus providing sixty four more sleeping rooms; the kitchen is to be enlarged, the house supplied with steam and water throughout, the grounds rearranged and beautified, and the house better fitted in every way to accommodate its guests. Chapman is adding somewhat extensively to his house, and mine host Wattle is also contemplating some needed improvements. It may safely be said that public accommodations at the lake will be superior to the past in every particular.

NOTE
added the 3rd floor

THE CITY: TAKE MINNETONKA A Glance
Minneapolis Tribune (1867-1908): Apr 23, 1882;



TONKA BAY PAVILION, LAKE MINNETONKA, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.



Lake Park Hotel pavilion

The Lake Park Hotel came into being when Lake Minnetonka proponents outbid rivals from White Bear Lake and Red Wing-Lake Pepin to construct a Chautauqua-like combination hotel and lakeside "outdoor university." The majority of the project's cash came from a \$16,000 citizen stock subscription from Minneapolis, along with \$6,000 from Excelsior. Northwestern Park Association awarded the franchise in January 1879. Its directors banked upon visits from the powerful National Sunday School Assembly that had brought "tens of thousands of the best citizens in the country" to New York's Lake Chautauqua. Visitors came for a combination of Bible study and educational seminars and stayed on for lake vacations. The Minnetonka campus of 225 acres was more than twice the size of the New York grounds. Members of the committee searched for a site close to a "moral and temperate community" and believed

nearby Excelsior, with its 20-year effort for temperance, to be such a place.¹⁷

According to early projections, both of the lake hotel projects were "can't miss" propositions. In reality, both "missed."

As it was with Harrow House, Lake Park Hotel got off to a good start. A small army of workers rushed to finish the new building, getting it in shape for a July 20 opening, 16 days after the Harrow. Organized under the name Minnetonka Lake Park Association, some of the project's financing came from a stock offering of 1,000 shares priced at \$50 each; one

cottage lot on the campus was awarded to those buying two shares. Prominent among the stockholders were families influential at the lake and in Minneapolis—Pillsbury, Gale, Christian, Washburn, Janney, Hardenburgh, Dunwoody, Halstead, Morrison among them.²²

At 420 feet long and 65 feet wide, the three-storied Lake Park outsized the St. Louis. The 100-foot-high main north tower could be reached from the outside and featured galleries facing Gideons Bay; there were two smaller towers at the building's center and another at the south end. These and other views from the Hulls Point location on the future Tonka Bay were excellent. The 50-by-80-foot-long dining room was two stories high with a truss roof and no pillars. Large suites awaited guests on the north end's second floor, and at least 45 rooms had

fireplaces; rates ranged from \$2 to \$3 per day and \$10.50 to \$14 per week. All rooms had verandas. All servants were white.²³

The Lake Park Association's amphitheater, perfect for the group's religious and educational assemblies, distinguished the grounds. Located on the site's highest point, the outdoor theater included a stage with a rear platform that could hold several hundred singers, surrounded by a circle of seats. Although not complete upon opening, the amphitheater was crucial to the association's plans.

Even before opening day, Lake Park management turned away eager customers to allow workers room to maneuver. Still, the building was unfinished at its debut. The *Tribune's* preview of the new hotel found its "excellence of design, beauty and fitness impressive." Wrote the reviewer, "Hotel

Harrow has its varied attractions. Lake Park is unique.”²⁴

Lake Minnetonka’s six-vessel steamboat fleet ferried guests to the J.W. Hutchinson-managed Lake Park throughout its opening weeks. On August 6, the hotel’s first Sunday school convention began its week-long run, with Gov. John S. Pillsbury delivering a welcoming address. Good crowds attended lectures on various topics from the science behind Darwin’s theory of evolution to Bible study classes, sermons and church services. The service staff called a strike during the week, but Hutchinson persuaded them to relent.²⁵

Nonetheless, all was not well at the Lake Park. Even before construction began, the hotel’s owner, the Minnetonka Lake Park Association, fought off a title challenge for the land upon which the building would sit.

the association ended the season \$23,000 in debt. The group’s survival, the Lake Park Hotel included, was now very much in doubt.²⁶

N.F. Griswold, president of the Minneapolis Citizens Bank, offered to “unravel the snarl” and assume the association’s debts. A stockholder himself, Griswold committed to completing Lake Park in time for the 1880 summer season. The enterprise would now be totally private, but Minnetonka Lake Park

Association retained rights to hold meetings on the grounds—as long as they were paid for in advance.

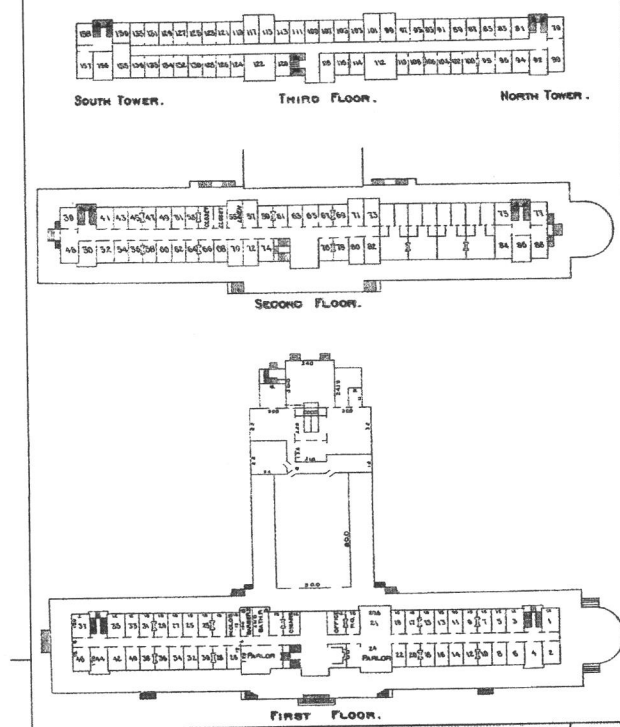
Harrow House and Lake Park Hotel, the first forays of investors hoping to fashion Lake Minnetonka into a major tourist

destination, singed some fingers. Yet the underlying premise for their investments, the lake as a leading American resort, remained sound. And the buildings survived under new management, providing a base for further expansion.

A drawn-out court battle produced a settlement satisfactory to both parties, but the controversy, said Lake Park officials later, “...had a bad effect, weakening public confidence.” The choice of the Lake Minnetonka site also intensified the growing rivalry between St. Paul and Minneapolis, further damaging tourist trade. Despite the Sunday school convention’s success,

LAKE PARK HOTEL,

Lake Minnetonka, Minn.

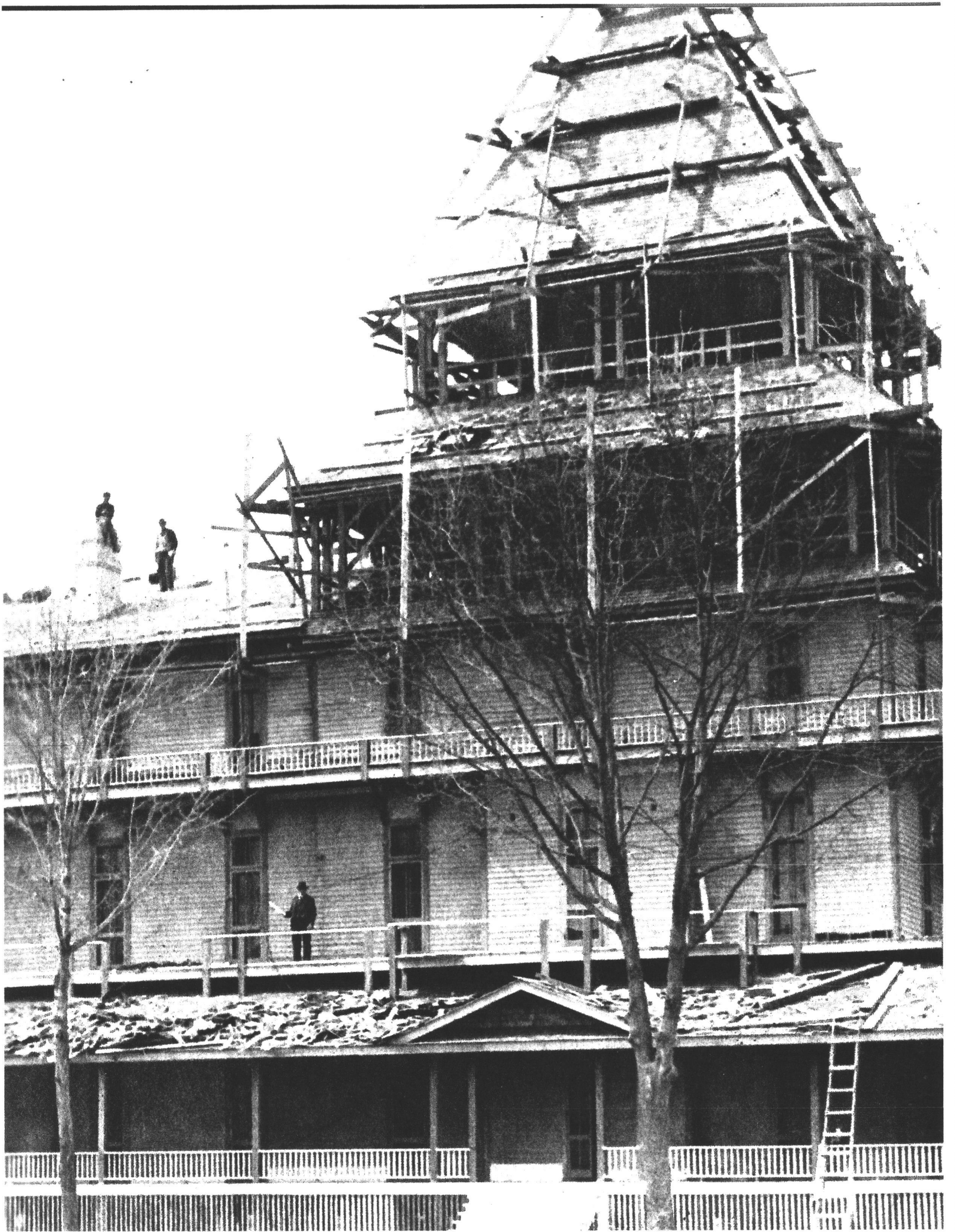


Lake Park Hotel

—SECTION TWO—

SARATOGA OF THE WEST





Mpls Tribune 4-11-1912

ATTENTION

Lake Dwellers

AT

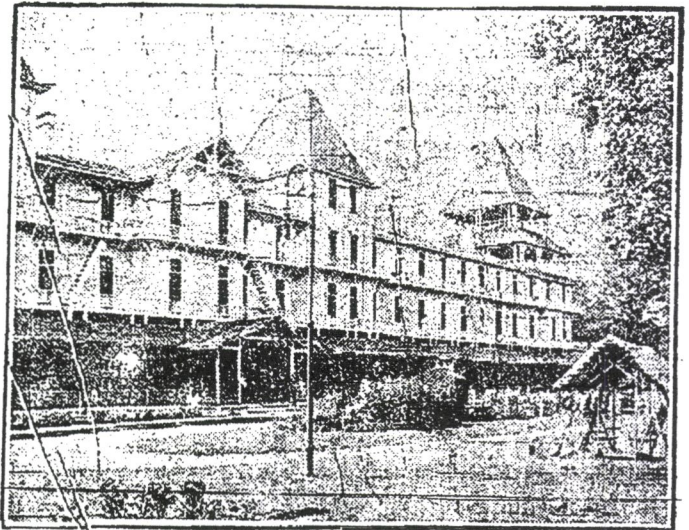
Lake Minnetonka

The furnishings of Tonka Bay Hotel will be sold on the premises, beginning Thursday, April 11th at 9:30 and continue until all is sold. 150 rooms fitted up complete, consisting of Dressers, Beds, Commodes, Springs, Mattresses, Pillows, Blankets, Sheets, Quilts, Stands, Tables, Rockers, Chairs, Carpets, Rugs, etc.

If You Want Bargains, Be On Hand

Minneapolis Morning Tribune (1909-1922); Jan 16, 1913;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Minneapolis Tribune (1867-1922)
pg. 2

Tonka Bay Hotel Sold to Wreckers; Marks Passing of an Old Landmark



THE passing of one of the landmarks at Lake Minnetonka was announced Tuesday with the sale of the Tonka Bay hotel to the Northwestern Wrecking company. The Transit Supply company, controlled by officials of the Twin City Rapid Transit company, sold the hotel which will be torn down. The property retained by the Transit Supply company will be devoted to recreational grounds.

The Tonka Bay hotel, until a few years ago was the center of social activities in the summer season. It was erected in 1883 and its popularity among frequenters of the lake continued for years until the smaller

hotels and the more numerous cottages offered competition.

For the last few years, however, the hotel had been conducted on a losing basis. It was not opened in the spring of 1911 and in the summer of 1912 the property was rented by the Associated Jewish charities of Minneapolis as a fresh air resort for Jewish children.

The wrecking crew soon will begin removing the landmark and the Transit company expects to have the property converted into picnic and recreational grounds by next summer.

The hotel is 395 feet long, three stories high, with 250 rooms. The terms of the transaction have not been made public.



Lake Park Hotel Tonka Bay 1890

TONKA BAY HOTEL						
ORIGINAL COST FROM THE CONSTRUCTION JOURNALS						
Real Estate and Hotel Bulding			Nov 1907			66,000
Transfer Fees						8
Hotel Personal Property			Dec 1907			9,721
Furniture and Fixtures			1908			6,445
Water Supply			1908			1,560
Laundry			1908			1,066
Roller Rink						
	Purchase Price		1908		700	
	Repairs to Building		1908		941	
	New Plumbing		1908		407	
						2,048
Ball Park (release of liens)			1909			700
Barn (built to replace original destroyed by fir			1910			288
Miscellaneous Repairs and Construction			1908			
			Labor	Materials	Total	
Miscellaneous Construction			930	695	1,625	
General Repairs (including Plumbing)			3,388	2,124	5,512	
Miscellaneous Repairs			189	240	429	
Miscellaneous Repairs					53	
Repairs to Casino Building					172	
Repairs to Railroad Building					3	
Miscellaneous Services					20	
Meals furnished Construction Crews					522	
One Wagon					28	
20 Arc-Lite Poles complete					101	
Survey Labor January 1908			9		9	
General Construction from General Books					179	
Change Barn into Dormitory					80	
Two Concrete Tanks					39	
Connect Well with Casino					1	
Miscellaneous Equipment					150	
						8,923
Total						96,759

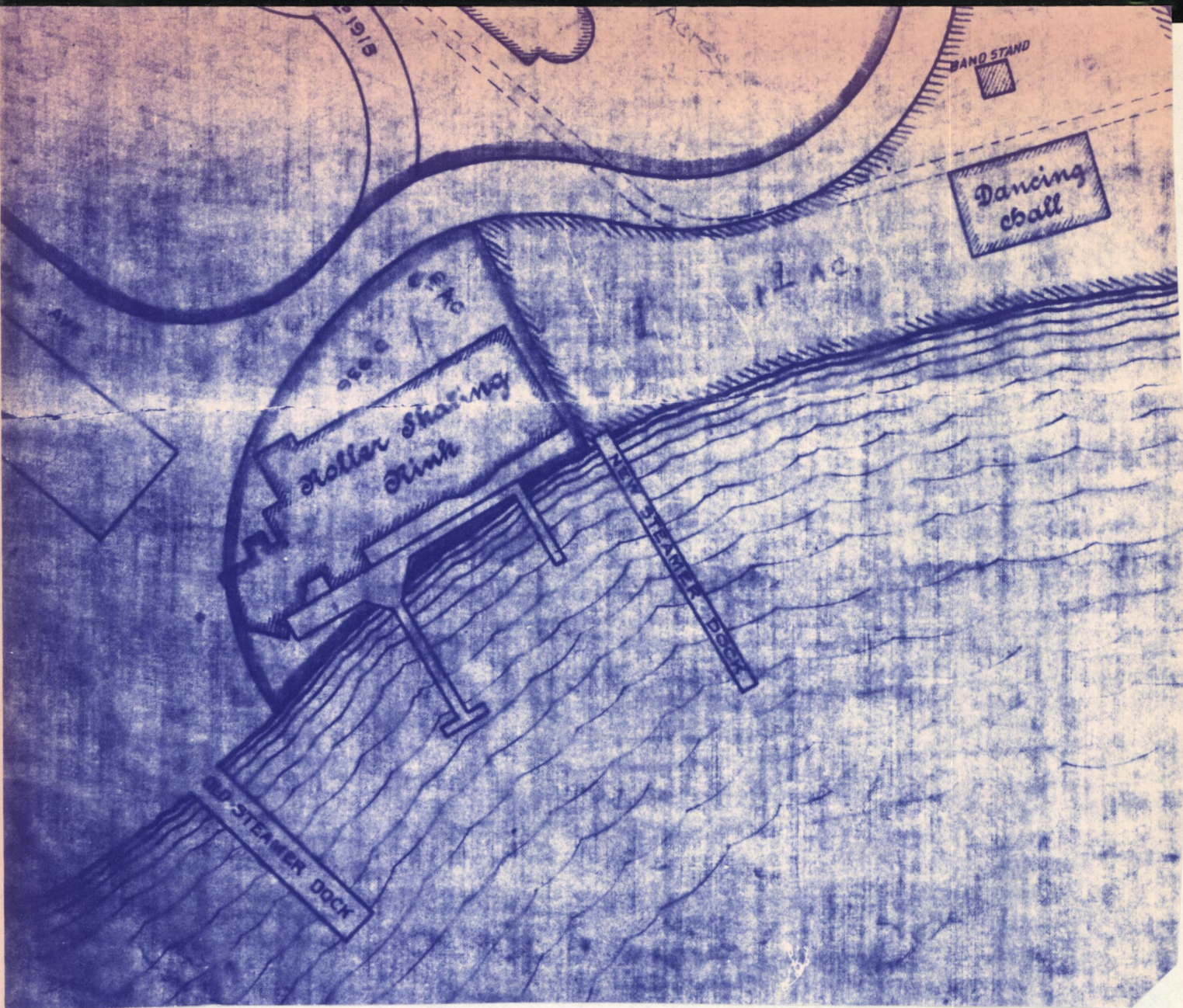
TONKA BAY HOTEL						
RESULTS OF OPERATIONS						
					PROFIT	Operating
YEAR			INCOME	EXPENSES	(LOSS)	Ratio
1908			32,278	32,283	(5)	100%
1909			33,789	38,347	(4,558)	114%
1910			30,070	35,095	(5,025)	117%
1911			332	3,088	(2,756)	930%
	Subtotals		96,469	108,813	(12,344)	113%
1912			25	595	(570)	
1913			481	543	(62)	
1914				103	(103)	
1915				87	(87)	
1916						
1917				5	(5)	
1918				37	(37)	
1919				112	(112)	
1920				-		
1921				199	(199)	
1922				107	(107)	
1932	Storehous Bills			12	(12)	
			96,975	110,613	(13,638)	

TONKA BAY HOTEL		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1908	Income						7,552	12,047	11,744	742	3		5	32,093
	Expense		194	823	230	435	7,528	11,097	8,831	1,368	352	260	1,164	32,282
	Profit(Loss)		(194)	(823)	(230)	(435)	24	950	2,913	(626)	(349)	(260)	(1,159)	(189)
1909	Income	8					6,165	12,606	13,892	1,119			4,558	38,348
	Expense	215	226	194	262	1,175	11,117	10,591	11,805	1,341	372	904	146	38,348
	Profit(Loss)	(207)	(226)	(194)	(262)	(1,175)	(4,952)	2,015	2,087	(222)	(372)	(904)	4,412	-
1910	Income					3	5,365	13,601	10,149	755	45		5,025	34,943
	Expense	185	259	184	451	2,032	7,850	10,847	10,451	1,658	401	188	197	34,703
	Profit(Loss)	(185)	(259)	(184)	(451)	(2,029)	(2,485)	2,754	(302)	(903)	(356)	(188)	4,828	240
1911	Income											44		44
	Expense	191	232	50	50	66	81	1,442	662	78	67	68	50	3,037
	Profit(Loss)	(191)	(232)	(50)	(50)	(66)	(81)	(1,442)	(662)	(78)	(67)	(24)	(50)	(2,993)

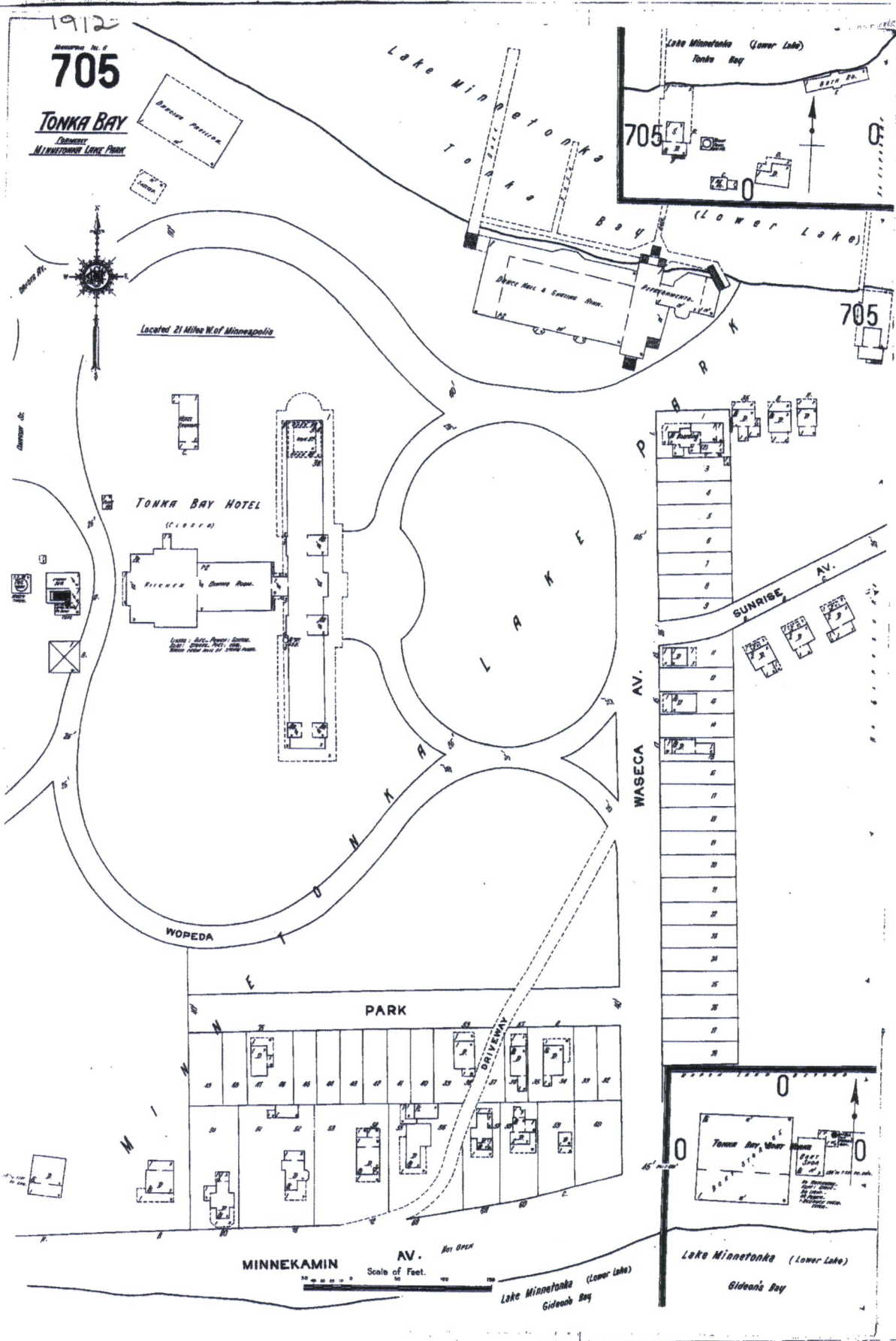


Tonka Bay Hotel, originally
the Lake Park, shown in
1905 after its name change





EVERY
PV119ED





THE LAKE PARK HOTEL.

In writing of the leading summer resort hotels of this country, it is safe to say that they may be divided into two classes, to each of which a most honorable prominence attaches. These are the houses which have entertained generations of health and pleasure seekers, which have made their names famous all over the world, and which must still command a large patronage, largely from their associations with times long past, and by virtue of the prestige of a time-honored name.

These old establishments and time-honored hostelries must, in the nature of things, soon become a part of ancient history, for the place which they once held in the affections of a previous generation, is rapidly being usurped by the palatial and model hotels which have been erected at all large summer and health resorts.



LAKE PARK HOTEL AT TERMINUS OF M. & ST. L. RY.

Of this latter class of hostelries, the Lake Park Hotel of Minnetonka is unquestionably the finest type to be found anywhere in the entire country. It is generally acknowledged to be the largest, modern summer resort hotel in the northwest, and has a capacity for more than 1000 guests. It is one of the houses of Minnetonka, which in its own magnificence is sufficient to disprove any statement that this health resort is behind its contemporaries in the matter of hotel accommodations.

The writer has during his journalistic experience, visited every leading summer place of this country, and has seen all their famous and elegant hotels, but he can call to mind but few which surpass in any essential feature the Lake Park at Minnetonka.

It is beautifully and centrally situated, on a

high elevation that gives a most charming and commanding view of the entire lower lake. It is easily accessible from the Twin Cities by the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway, which run hourly trains each way, and is only a step from one of the handsomest landing places to be found on the entire lake shores, where steamers are constantly coming and going from all sections of the lake.

Its promoters and builders foresaw the need of erecting a structure which should be in harmony with the beautiful natural surroundings of water and forest, and suited to the exacting requirements of the capricious summer tourist. It is very attractive, being approached by inviting shady walks, and is surrounded by broad, breezy verandas, which make it cool and inviting even in the hottest summer weather.

Architecturally considered, the building is a model as regards its beauty of proportion and its ornate and imposing exterior, while the resources of the best artistic talent and mechanical skill have drawn upon to make it all that could be desired for a summer hotel. The fine finish, carpets, draperies, furniture, luxurious beds, electric lights, electric call bells and every modern convenience to which guests of the leading public houses of the country are accustomed, combined to make the Lake Park a hotel of which every citizen may well feel proud.

The first floor includes the office, parlor, reception room, reading room, dining room and kitchen, as well as private parlors and guests chambers, which are arranged singly and en-suite.

The second floor is devoted almost entirely to sleeping and living rooms, single and en-suite, all of them well furnished, cheerful and pleasant. The ceilings, being remarkably high, contribute to the general effect of lightness and coolness. Spacious and well ventilated halls make easy access to all apartments, and afford a free and unobstructed circulation of air.

The dining room forms a wing of the main building, and is most admirably built for the purpose, having numberless windows for light, high paneled ceilings finished in natural wood, and hardwood floors. It comfortably seats 400 people, and is in keeping with the general "tastefulness" which distinguishes the house.

The menu provided by the Lake Park is not excelled by that of any hotel even at the great watering places of the east. The cuisine can be

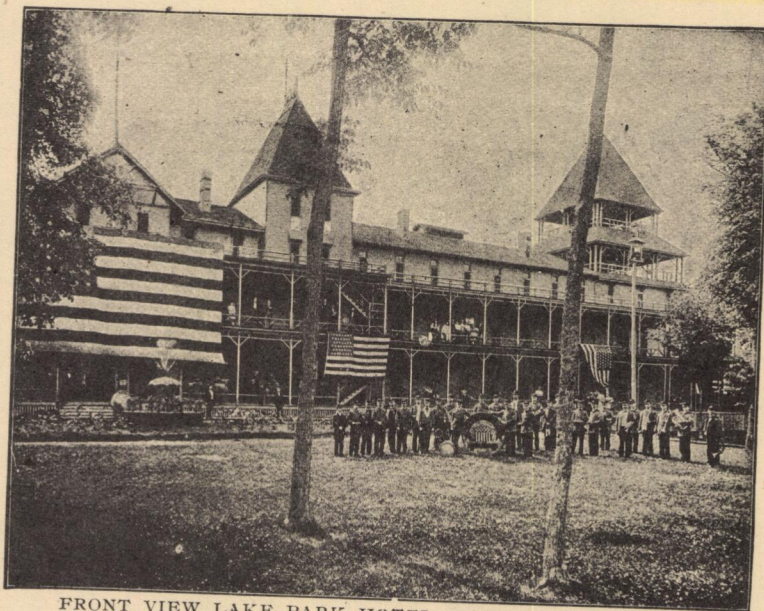


SIDE VIEW LAKE PARK HOTEL, LAKE MINNETONKA.

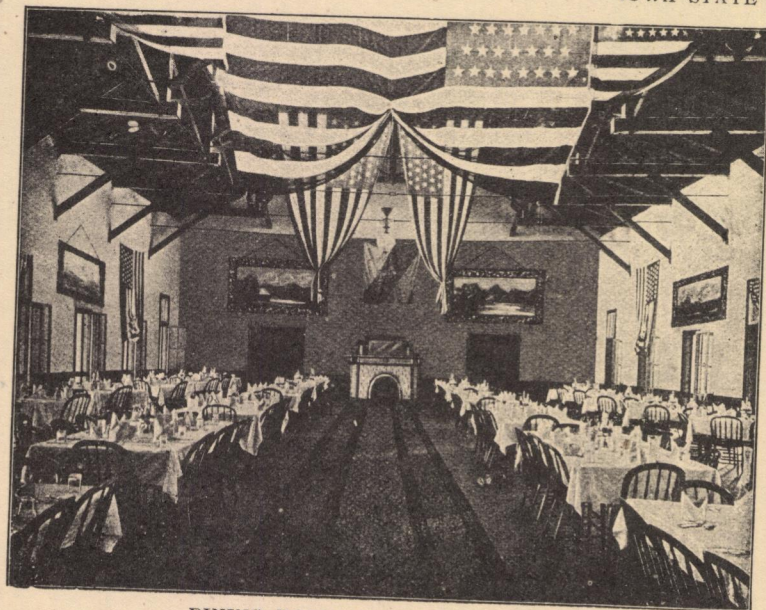
correctly described as unsurpassable, and with the music of the dinner hour, together with experienced waiters, the service is all that the most exacting could demand.

A Kindergarten is also maintained by the management of the house with a full corps of competent teachers and nurses to attend to the wants and pleasures of the little ones.

One section of the pavilion, which is an adjunct of the hotel, forms a cool, light and airy billiard parlor. It is furnished complete with tables for billiards, pool, etc., and the hall is lighted by electricity for evening games.



FRONT VIEW LAKE PARK HOTEL, LAKE MINNETONKA,
IOWA STATE BAND IN FOREGROUND.



DINING ROOM—LAKE PARK HOTEL.

In the Lake Park Theater and Pavilion, on the lake, adjacent to the main building, summer opera, light comedy and other theatricals are provided for the benefit of hotel guests. No detail which would add to the enjoyment of its patrons or increase the popularity of the house is omitted.

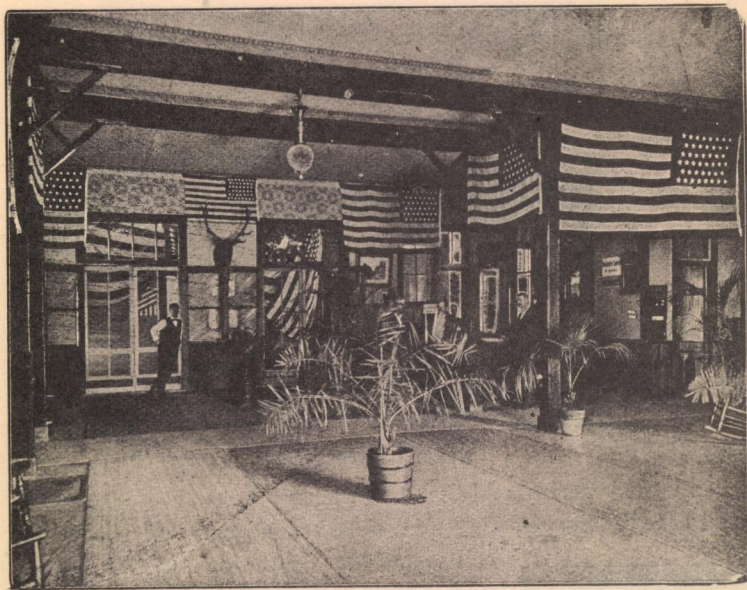
Excellent tennis courts and baseball grounds are included in the park, and kept in condition for the exclusive use of the hotel guests.

The stables are arranged for the proper care of horses, and those desiring to use their own animals can board them at a min-

imum of expense and be assured that they will receive most considerate treatment and attention.

Numerous walks and drives through the romantic and picturesque country, abounding in impressive natural scenery, gives to Lake Park an advantage above all other resorts.

Bicycle trails are equally attractive, and the devotees of the wheel have unlimited opportunities in the way of good roads, boulevards, etc., for exploration, distance, speed or recreation spins. No place could be more efficiently served by transportation than is furnished by the Minneapolis & St. Louis Rail-



OFFICE, LAKE PARK HOTEL.

way, as it has frequent and fast trains at all convenient hours for reaching Minneapolis and St. Paul as well as distant commercial centers.

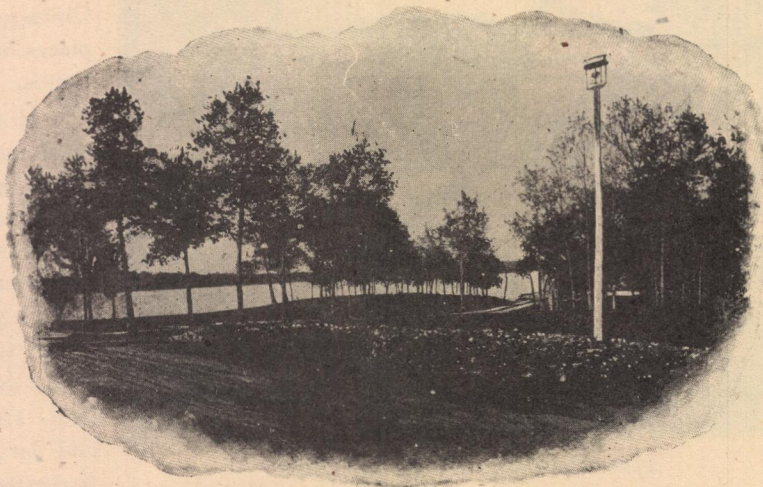
The active management of the house reposes in Messrs. S. R. Snow and J. H. Abbott, hotel men who have had long experience and have also the highest capabilities for catering to that class of health and pleasure seekers who demand the best hotel accommodations obtainable, and will accept nothing else.

Mr. Snow is well known in Minneapolis, where he has had

charge of the Hotel Berkley for a succession of years, and also in the east, where he has acted in the same capacity.

Mr. Abbott will have charge of the financial end of the business and his familiarity with that line of work will most certainly insure a good balance on the right side of the ledger at the end of the season.

We need only say, in conclusion, that if this brief mention influences any of our readers to visit Minnetonka, and stop at Lake Park, we shall have earned their thanks, and once more upheld the reputation of this journal for recommending only when deserved.



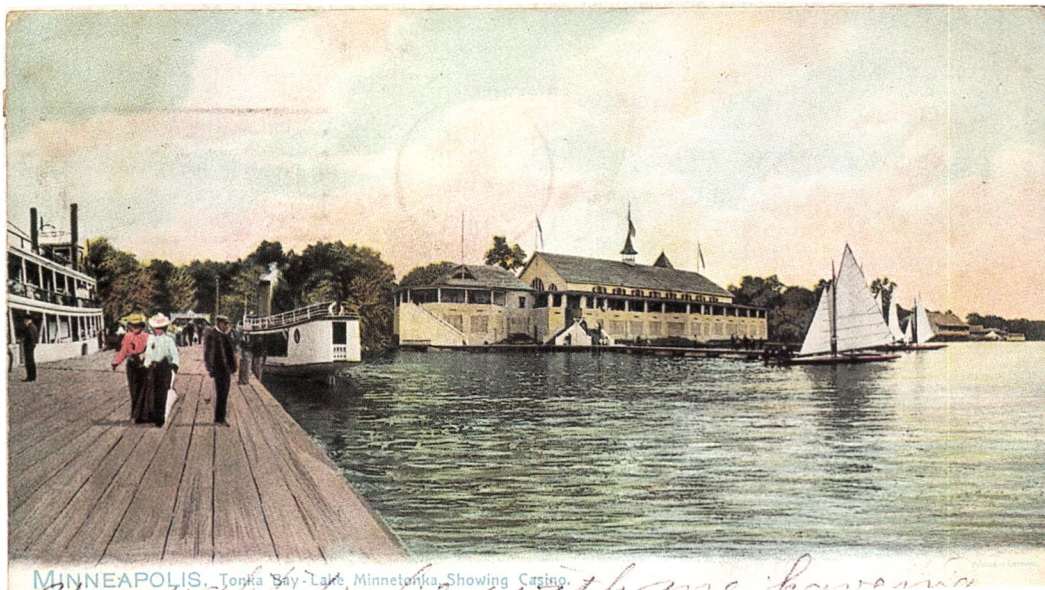
GROUNDS FROM VERANDA, LAKE PARK HOTEL.



KINDERGARTEN IN LAKE PARK GROUNDS.

There are or will be when the new boats are completed, probably ten first-class yachts in the Minnetonka Yacht Club, qualified for racing. There are forty or fifty boats in the yacht club fleet of the ordinary class. The club has a membership of over 200 men, the list having been largely increased in the last few years.

Dr. and Mrs. F. D. Parker have made several tours of the lake on their new steam launch, the Emma L. The boat works like a charm and is developing a speed that will rival the fastest boats on the lake.



MINNEAPOLIS, Tonka Bay - Lake Minnetonka, Showing Casino. *St. Louis, Mo. 1904*



CASINO AT TONKA BAY, LAKE MINNETONKA.

COPYRIGHT 1904, SWEET BROS.



TONKA BAY HOTEL, LAKE MINNETONKA,
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

WILDWOOD PARK

WILDWOOD PARK
White Bear Lake

Wildwood Park had a reputation as a "tough resort" when TCRT took over in 1898. The early history of the park and real estate transactions are discussed in the section on the **STILLWATER DIVISION: ST. PAUL & WHITE BEAR RAILROAD**.

The property became part of the Minneapolis & St. Paul Suburban Railway in 1899. On May 19, 1899, the M&StPS Ry. purchased five acres of Government Lot 3 from W. A. Sonmor, former president of the then bankrupt Wildwood Park Company, who was the court-appointed assignee for all the WPC real estate. The railway also purchased all of Government Lot 1 from J. B. Warren. The railway acquired additional real estate in October 1901 (cost \$3,800) and five acres in May 1902 (cost \$1,725).

The park facilities were upgraded to TCRT standards. According to the TCRT 1904 Annual Report \$10,467 had been spent on improvements. A brief contemporary account of 1905 reported that the buildings were painted white, included a tall tower and roller coaster, and a pier extended into the lake. The pier was used by a stern paddle-wheel steamboat, also painted white, operated on White Bear Lake by the White Bear Navigation Company (never owned by or a part of TCRT) connecting the village of White Bear with Wildwood Park. As of 12-31-1907 it was reported that the park was leased to outside operators, which situation continued through 1911. For 1907 U.S. Census purposes the investment was estimated at \$80,000 with an average annual patronage of 300,000 persons.

According to the TCRT 1909 Annual Report \$23,683 was invested in additional construction, the major item being a new brick pavilion which contained a dance hall and promenade, restaurant, refreshment counter, and a broad observation porch overlooking the lake. The result was a transformation of the property into a facility which combined the best features of a park, lake and summer resort.

In the December 31, 1910, reorganization the Minneapolis & St. Paul Suburban Railway conveyed to the newly incorporated Minnetonka & White Bear Navigation Company 28.7 acres of real estate, all docks, and the following structures.

Pavilion	90' x 180'	1-story, brick	
Bowling Alley	70' x 140'	2-story, frame	contained 11 alleys
Bath House	60' x 100'	1-story, frame	
Boat House	16' x 16'	1-story, frame	included 60 rowboats
Men's Toilet	14' x 42'	1-story, frame	
Women's Toilet	18' x 35'	1-story, frame	
Refreshment Stand	7' x 12'	1-story, frame	
Sewerage Pump House	10' x 14'	1-story, frame	
Cottage	30' x 40'	frame	
Ice House	38' x 54'	2-story, frame	
200 Park Benches			
Figure 8 Roller Coaster (damaged by fire)			
1 Boat Slide			
1 Water Toboggan			

Refer to the blue line map for identification of the real estate holdings involved in the 1910 corporate reorganization.

Appended is a set of accounting worksheets summarizing transactions in the construction journals from 1901 thru 1932 itemizing construction costs, together with retirements and real estate sales from 1930 thru 1945.

The normal operating season was from May 30th through September 1st. Activities available at Wildwood during the prosperous years perhaps are best described in the appended reproduction of a TCL promotional brochure dating to the 1915-1916 time period.

The TCRT 1909 Annual Report stated that \$25,000 was spent on construction of a new bath house.

Photographs dated 1911 show a steam-powered miniature railway located along the right-of-way east of the roller coaster and pavilion. As of October 1926 the Thornton Miniature Railway Company was the operator.

The A. L. Drum & Company Valuation Report as of 1-1-1926 calculated the park real estate at 25.995 acres. The Report also indicated that the operation of most of the amusement facilities shown on the map on page 82 was performed by outsiders.

1. The M&StPS RR owned the waiting room (19) and dispatcher's office (21).
2. P. J. Metzdorf, the Park Superintendent, owned one cottage and one shed, both not shown on the map, in the northeast corner of the property.
3. Amusements Service Corporation owned the improvements inside the scooter building (14).
4. Fred W. Pearce Corporation owned the roller coaster (5).
5. Recreation Service Corporation owned the merry-go-round inside building (3); as of June 1925 General Amusements Company was operating it.
6. Capital Amusements Inc. owned the skee ball alley (13), mysterious sensation (12), giant aeroplance (9) and kiddie aero (4).

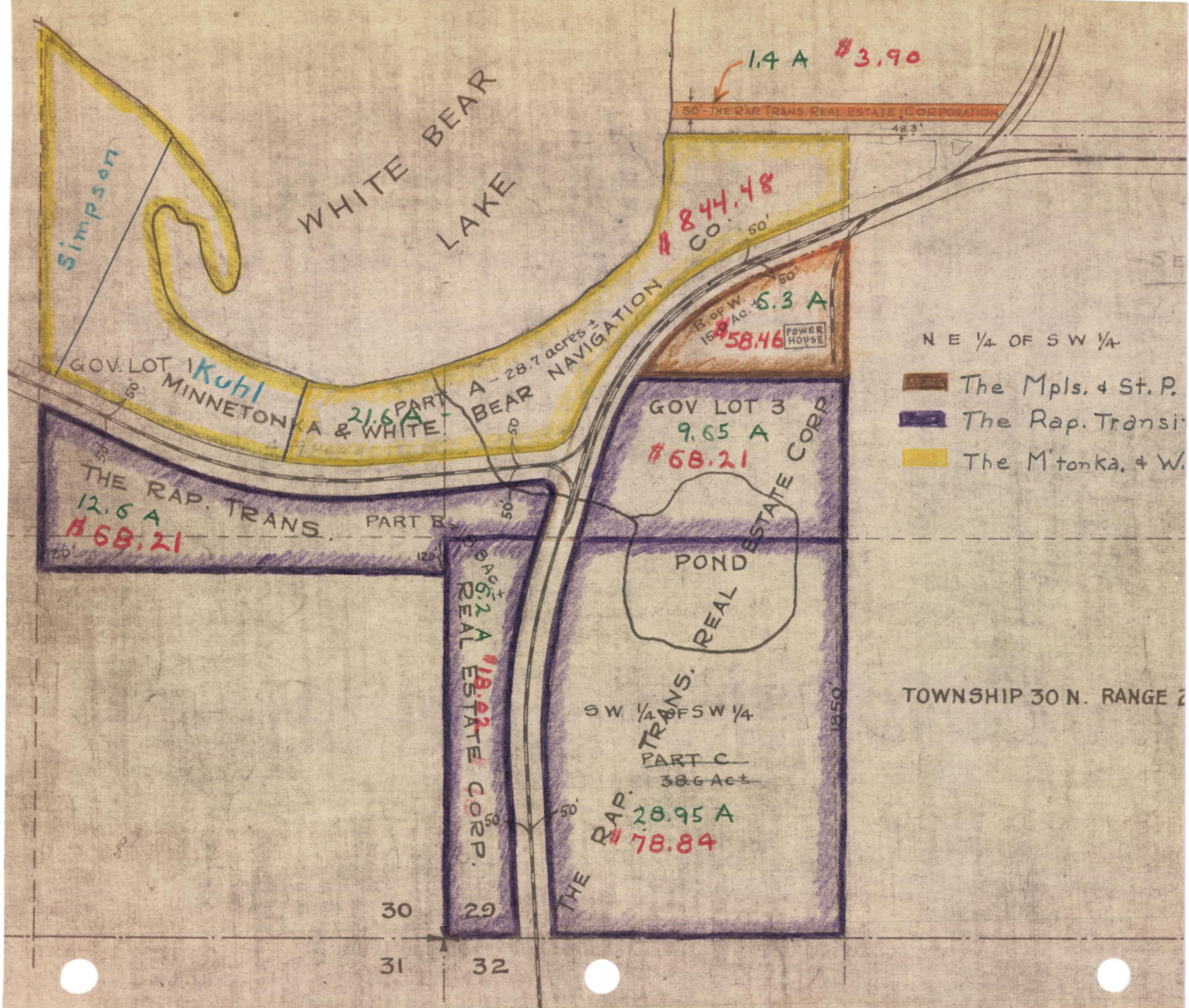
Another listing is appended showing the facilities ownership as of 10-19-1926. Unfortunately we do not have a copy of the referenced map.

According to TCRT Annual Reports during 1928 and 1929 approximately \$2,000 was expended each year on improvements; in 1930 and additional \$4,807 was invested. However patronage continued to decline and after the 1932 railway line abandonments the park was leased to a succession of amusement companies. During the last five years of its existence the park was leased to and operated by the Fred W. Pearce Corporation.

According to "Bus and Trolley News" (the TCL credit union publication) on Thursday, July 22, 1937, the Veteran Employees Club Picnic was held at Wildwood Park. Minneapolis won the ball game between Minneapolis and St. Paul. It was reported that the following dined at the pavilion: D. J. Strouse, Burton G. Noah, Jeff Alexander, Fred Bjork, Sibbald MacDonald, Donald Goodrich, Fred D. Anderson (E.M.B.A. director) and others.

For several years prior to 1938 the revenue from the lease was insufficient to cover the cost of real estate taxes and insurance on the property and buildings. The park was closed after the 1938 season. In 1938 a contract was made with the Northwestern Lumber & Wrecking Co. to remove all the buildings, roadways and fences. Net proceeds (salvage less cost of demolition) were \$2,850 plus \$300 realized through miscellaneous sales.

60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	\$1	\$2	\$3
60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	\$1	\$2	\$3
Wildwood Park Restaurant								001000		5
WHITE BEAR LAKE								WAITER		4
AMOUNT TO BE PAID CASHIER								10		3
IS THE HIGHEST AMOUNT PUNCHED										2
5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55
5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55



woodland, giving an eerie fascination to place.

The grounds immediately surrounding buildings have been leveled, great holes have been dug where necessary, and, in short, it has been a great expenditure of time, thought and money to render this the most beautiful spot of the vicinity, which may be fittingly described as one vast garden in its own natural right.

The delights of modern Wildwood many and various are those who have frequented some of the history it has, it is an additional pleasure to be gained

77

UNDER THE ARC LIGHT.

ing selected his summer quarters hardly be induced to leave them. A pie bud is the home of a crappie which sometimes numbers as many as three thousands of these splendid fish. Once the angler has located crappie bud, provided himself with minnows and the proper surf casting line and hook, he may sit still in a anchored boat and catch these fat

been arranged for a jumping contest and prize of \$5 in each of these that the entr Cars on the connect with both Interurh

dash, a 300-yards swimmer-mile boat race, a breast and putting the shot. Gold is offered the winner events, and there is no doubt list will be large. Wildwood and Stillwater all local St. Paul lines and lines at Seventh street.

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country.

7-22-
Wildwood Attraction

In addition to other attractions for the Fourth a program of sporting events has been arranged by the management, including 100-yards dash, a 300-yards swimming race, a quarter-mile boat race, a broad jumping contest and putting the shot. A prize of \$5 in gold is offered the winner of each of these events, and there is no doubt that the entry list will be large.

Cars on the Wildwood and Stillwater line connect with all local St. Paul lines and both Interurban lines at Seventh street and

A year ago it was a matter of some determination to go swimming on any of the White Bear shores, because the slopes were irregular, there were weeds growing close to the banks, and the bottom was nowhere sufficiently sandy to render bathing really a pleasure. The management put dredgers at work on the Wildwood beach, cleaned out all the weeds, leveled the beach to a uniform grade and then surfaced the entire bottom with silver sand, forming one of the most superb bathing beaches in the country.

with the Mandolin orchestra to furnish music.

In addition to other attractions for the Fourth a program of sporting events has been arranged by the management, including 100-yard dash, a 300-yards swimming race, a quarter-mile boat race, a broad jumping contest and putting the shot. A prize of \$5 in gold is offered the winner of each of these events, and there is no doubt that the entry list will be large.

Cars on the Wildwood and Stillwater line connect with all local St. Paul lines and both Interurban lines at Seventh street and

Display Ad 20 -- No Title
 Minneapolis Morning Tribune (1909-1922); Jun 30, 1909;
 ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Minneapolis Tribune (1867-1922)
 pg. 3

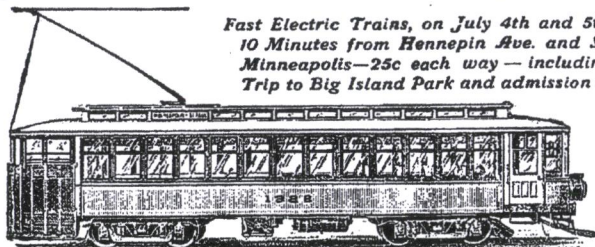
Spend Glorious "4th and 5th" AT Lake Minnetonka or Wildwood

On White Bear Lake



Lake Minnetonka's Attractions

Fast Electric Trains, on July 4th and 5th, every 10 Minutes from Hennepin Ave. and Sixth St., Minneapolis—25c each way — including Ferry Trip to Big Island Park and admission to Park.



BIG ISLAND PARK

The Isle of
 Greenest Grass,
 Greatest Trees,
 Loveliest Foliage,
 Clearest Water.

The Ideal Place for Family or Party Picnics

Well-Equipped Picnic Kitchens
 Beautiful Picnic Grounds and Woods
 Plenty of Pure Drinking Water
 Plenty of Benches
 Good Fishing
 Roller Coaster Fun Factory
 Pennyodeon
 Electric Theater Mystic River
 Carousel

Free Concerts

Afternoons and Evenings of
 "4th and 5th" in MUSIC
 CASINO (all seats free).

Linguist's
 Ladies' Symphony
 Orchestra

Dancing Afternoon and
 evening, July 5
 Music by Wolff's orchestra.

Tonka Bay Roller Skating Casino Best in the Northwest

BAND CONCERTS EVERY AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

Tonka Bay Hotel, under management of "Twin City Lines," is Lake Minnetonka's best hotel in every respect. Take your dinner there when you are out at the Lake.

Special Boat Service between Tonka Bay Hotel and Big Island Park, July 4 and 5, as follows:

Leave Hotel for Park—12 noon and every hour to 8 p. m.

Leave Park for Hotel—12:30 p. m. and every hour to 7:30 p. m.

FARE EACH WAY BETWEEN HOTEL AND PARK, 10c.

St. Paul People Wanting to go to Lake Minnetonka, Big Island Park, Tonka Bay Hotel or Deephaven, should take any Interurban Line for Minneapolis—"Minneapolis & St. Paul," "Como-Harriet-Hopkins," "Selby-Lake" or "Suelling-Minnehaha" (the New Scenic Route) and transfer in Minneapolis to "Lake Minnetonka" train. Fare from any local line in St. Paul to Lake Minnetonka by transfers, 30c each way.

Wildwood's Attractions

Fast Electric Trains on "4th and 5th" every 15 minutes from Wabasha and 7th St., St. Paul—15c each way.

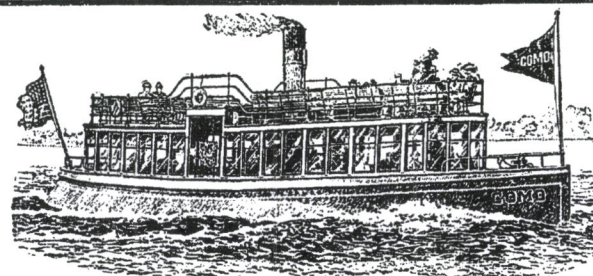
Beautiful New Casino

With Fine Dance Hall, Promenades, Lunch Room, Refreshment Counters.

Plenty of Things to Do at Wildwood on "4th and 5th"

Bathing Best Beach in Northwest.	Dancing Afternoon and Evening—Free	Laughing Gallery For Laughing Purposes Only.
Boating A Fine Fleet of Rowboats.	Bowling Alleys Plenty of Alleys.	Figure 8 Coaster Nothing Better for "The Blues"
Fishing White Bear is Full of Fish	Down the Flume An Amusement You Will Enjoy	Miniature Railway Get Abroad and You'll Like It

SACRED CONCERT SUNDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING



To See and Enjoy Lake Minnetonka on the "4th and 5th"
 Comfortably, Inexpensively, Delightfully, Take a "Twin City Express Boat"—Fast, Safe, Clean, Comfortable.

WAYZATA EXPRESS.
 Round Trip 14 Miles—2 Hours—20 Cents.
MINNETONKA BEACH EXPRESS.
 Round Trip 6 Miles—1 Hour—20 Cents.

ZUMBRA EXPRESS.
 Round Trip 10 Miles—1 Hour—20 Cents.
SPRING PARK EXPRESS.
 Round Trip 7 Miles—1 Hour—20 Cents.

Minneapolis People Wanting to go to Wildwood should take any Interurban Line for St. Paul—"Minneapolis & St. Paul," "Como-Harriet-Hopkins," "Selby-Lake" or "Suelling-Minnehaha" (the New Scenic Route) and transfer in St. Paul to Wildwood train. Fare from any local line in Minneapolis to Wildwood by transfers, 20 cents each way.

Information Telephones—Minneapolis, N. W. Main 2071, 4580; T. S. 3133, 3134. St. Paul, N. W. Cedar 2616.

Wildwood is situated on the shores of White Bear Lake, 12 miles from St. Paul and 22 miles from Minneapolis, on a typical Minnesota lake, four miles long and two miles wide. It is conducted on the principle that pleasure seekers appreciate a well-governed resort free from rowdyism and objectionable features but at the same time offering plenty of amusement. Wildwood is a park of 75 acres, owned by the Twin City Rapid Transit Co., and under the management of H. M. Barnet, the lessee.

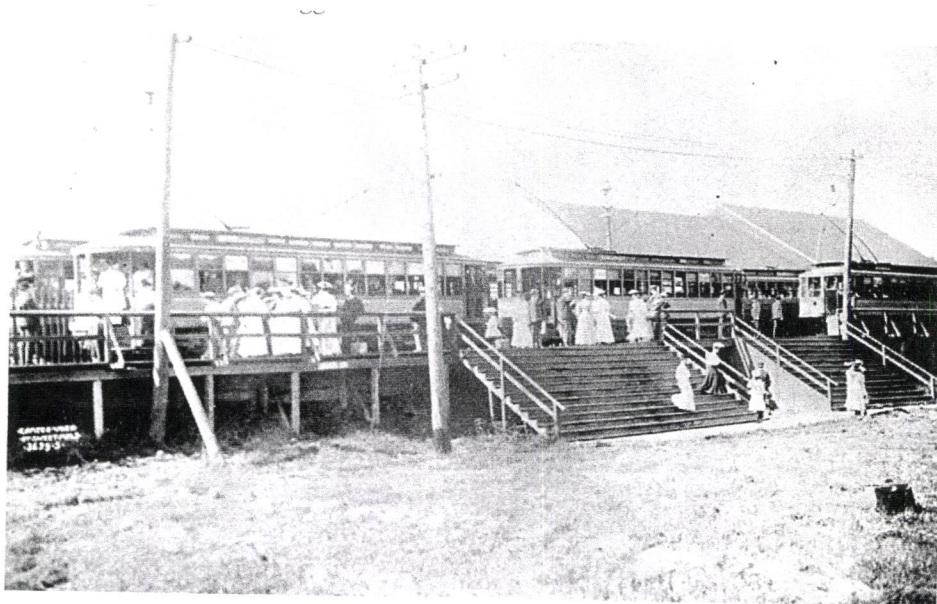
Fishing, boating, bathing and every form of water sport can be had at Wildwood. Eighty row-boats of the most improved pattern are in constant commission and, if the pleasure seeker wishes to try his luck with the White Bear fish, tackle and bait can be had at the Wildwood docks. Near the beach is situated a 260-room bath house equipped with the most modern facilities for the comfort of bathers and there is also a 100-ft. water toboggan.

There are eleven buildings on the grounds. In the central building, a spacious pavilion, is the dancing hall and a complete cafe and soft drink counter. Here the visitor can get everything from a dish of ice cream to a course dinner. Back of the pavilion, stretching along the grounds, are the amusement features. Among these are an eleven-alley bowling pavilion, a laughing gallery, a Katzenjammer castle, a Hooligan slide and the ever popular figure-eight toboggan with its exciting turns and twists.

In addition to the permanent features at Wildwood the management offers each year features of a transitory nature. An orchestra plays for dancing every afternoon and evening, acrobatic acts are occasional features, and during last season firework displays were given twice each week. These displays were given under arrangements with B. E. Gregory of Chicago and included novel and original features on the surface of White Bear Lake. They proved the best free attraction ever offered at Wildwood.

Mr. Barnet has not decided what improvements will be made in the park this spring or what special features he will offer his patrons during the coming season, but it is probable that an old mill will be installed as one of Wildwood's permanent amusement devices.

The success of Wildwood is due in a large measure to the policy adopted by H. M. Barnet when he assumed the management of the park. Mr. Barnet believes that the reason amusement parks are not more generally successful is found in the fact that too much attention is paid to the pavilion feature and that the other devices are neglected. He believes that with one man in control of a park it can be conducted on lines that will merit public patronage and he makes it a personal matter to see that picnic parties, especially ladies and children, receive courteous treatment at Wildwood. That the plan has succeeded is shown by the fact that when Mr. Barnet took control of the park, liquor was sold on the premises and the rowdy element predominated while now Wildwood has become generally recognized as a place where ladies and children may go with perfect safety and where the objectionable features of the amusement park have been entirely eliminated.

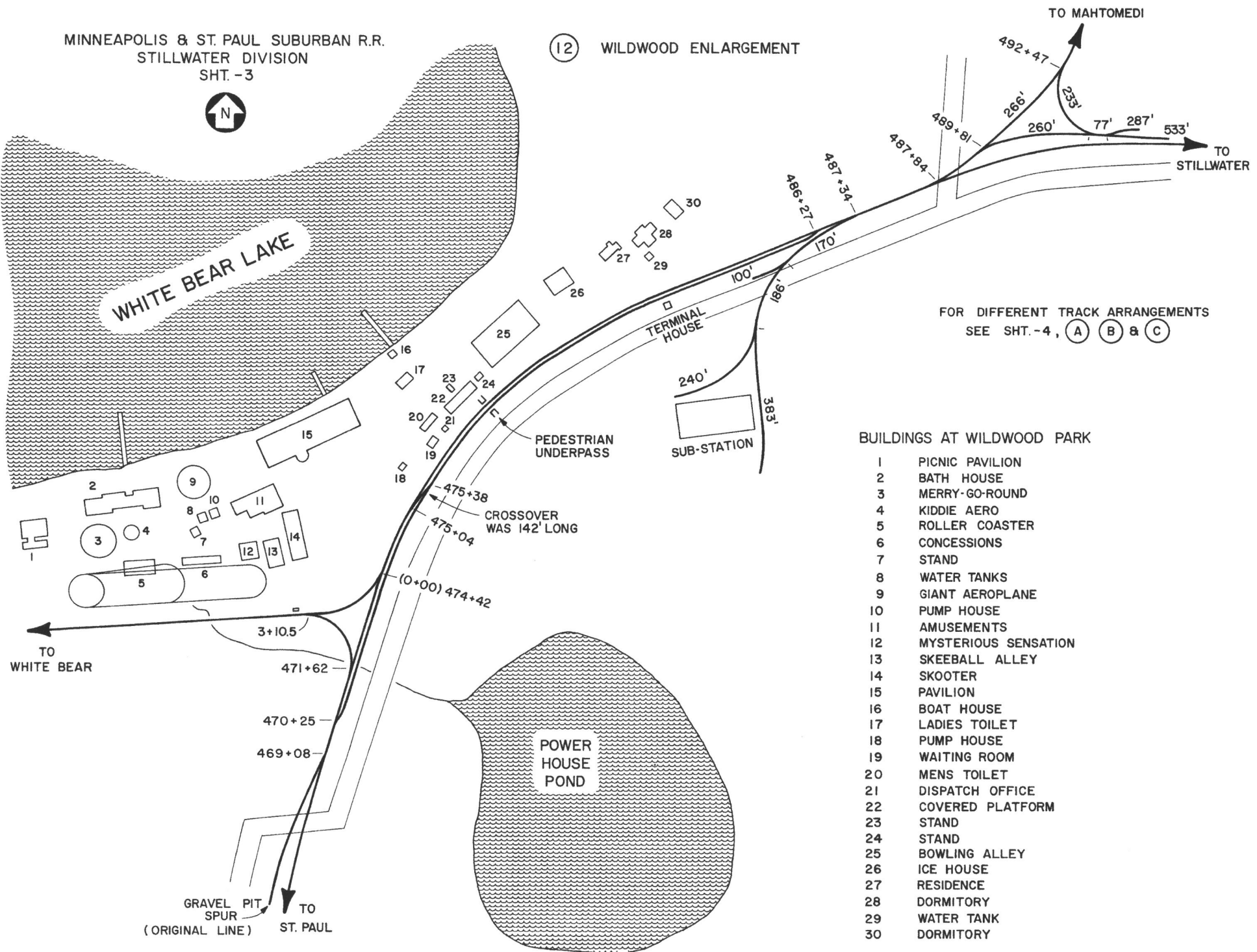


The Wildwood Park pavilion, built in 1909, as seen from the lake side. (TCRT)

MINNEAPOLIS & ST. PAUL SUBURBAN R.R.
STILLWATER DIVISION
SHT. -3



(12) WILDWOOD ENLARGEMENT



BUILDINGS AT WILDWOOD PARK

- 1 PICNIC PAVILION
- 2 BATH HOUSE
- 3 MERRY-GO-ROUND
- 4 KIDDIE AERO
- 5 ROLLER COASTER
- 6 CONCESSIONS
- 7 STAND
- 8 WATER TANKS
- 9 GIANT AEROPLANE
- 10 PUMP HOUSE
- 11 AMUSEMENTS
- 12 MYSTERIOUS SENSATION
- 13 SKEEBALL ALLEY
- 14 SKOOTER
- 15 PAVILION
- 16 BOAT HOUSE
- 17 LADIES TOILET
- 18 PUMP HOUSE
- 19 WAITING ROOM
- 20 MENS TOILET
- 21 DISPATCH OFFICE
- 22 COVERED PLATFORM
- 23 STAND
- 24 STAND
- 25 BOWLING ALLEY
- 26 ICE HOUSE
- 27 RESIDENCE
- 28 DORMITORY
- 29 WATER TANK
- 30 DORMITORY

WILDWOOD PARK
FACILITIES OWNERSHIP
10-19-1926 MAP

1. Shed	P. J. Metzdorf
2. Cottage	"
3. Garage	M. & W.B. N. Co.
4. Gas Storage	"
5. Dormitory Annex	"
6. Dormitory	"
7. Water Tank	"
8. Residence	"
9. Ice House	"
10. Bowling Alley	"
11. Stand	"
12. Covered Platform	"
13. Stand	"
14. Dispatch Office	M. & St.P. S. R.R.
15. Waiting Room	"
16. Men's Toilet	M. & W.B. N. Co.
17. Women's Toilet	"
18. Boat House	"
19. Pump House	"
20. Pavilion	"
21. Amusements	"
22a. Building	"
22b. Skooter	Amusement Service Corp.
23. Skee-Ball Alley	Capitol Amusements Inc.
24. Mysterious Sensation	"
25. Roller Coaster	Fred W. Pearce Corp.
25a. Transformer Shed	M. & W.B. N. Co.
26. Concessions	"
27. Stand	"
28. Water Tanks and Pumphouse	"
29. Giant Aeroplane	Capitol Amusements Inc.
30. Bath House	M. & W.B. N. Co.
31. Kiddie Aero	Capitol Amusements Inc.
32a. Building	M. & W.B. N. Co.
32b. Merry-Go-Round	Recreation Service Corp.
33. Stand	M. & W.B. N. Co.
34. Picnic Pavilion	"
35. Coffee Stand	"
36. Men's and Women's Toilets at west end of the picnic grounds	"
37. Refreshment Stand	"
38. Ticket Booth for parking	"

WILDWOOD PARK						
RESULTS OF OPERATIONS						
					PROFIT	Operating
YEAR			INCOME	EXPENSES	(LOSS)	Ratio
No Entries Prior to 1911						
1911			1,000	42	958	4%
1912			29,483	33,521	(4,038)	114%
1913			36,285	32,815	3,470	90%
1914			34,208	33,665	543	98%
1915			29,791	29,657	134	100%
1916			42,974	34,343	8,631	80%
1917			43,329	40,371	2,958	93%
1918			49,299	44,246	5,053	90%
1919			74,944	55,572	19,372	74%
1920			104,815	86,451	18,364	82%
1921			86,374	76,008	10,366	88%
1922			68,475	62,447	6,029	91%
1923			72,431	73,076	(645)	101%
1924			60,961	62,021	(1,060)	102%
1925			91,751	79,308	12,443	86%
1926			77,520	71,072	6,448	92%
1927			68,244	65,877	2,367	97%
1928			61,301	64,559	(3,258)	105%
1929			75,728	72,698	3,030	96%
1930			69,113	68,699	414	99%
1931			52,616	59,282	(6,667)	113%
1932			35,651	43,004	(7,353)	121%
Subtotals			1,266,293	1,188,734	77,559	94%
1933				3,271	(3,271)	
1934				1,823	(1,823)	
1935				1,165	(1,165)	
1936			783	1,288	(505)	
1937			1800	1,149	651	
1938				2,314	(2,314)	
1939				6	(6)	
Totals			1,268,876	1,199,750	69,126	

WILDWOOD PARK									
ORIGINAL COST FROM THE CONSTRUCTION JOURNALS 1901-1932									
REAL ESTATE IMPROVEMENTS									
DOCKS									
	1901-1902							649	
	1904							427	
	1916	One 2'x8' Scow with one 100# hammer (Pile Driver)						341	
	1929	Two L-shaped additions to Main Dock						86	
								1,503	
GROUNDS									
	1909							333	
	1916							836	
	1927	Raise grade pf kittenball grounds						541	
								1,710	
FENCES									
	1901-1902							277	
	1909							225	
	1915							332	
	1916							291	
	1919							640	
	1928							135	
								1,900	
SIDEWALKS									
	1901							249	
	1909							314	
	1915							612	
	1916							129	
	1921							641	
	1924							1,357	
	1925							1,739	
								5,041	
ROADWAY									
	1912							1,773	
	1913							538	
	1915							9	
								2,320	
FILLING IN THE SWAMP									
	1923							2,092	
	1924							1,470	
	1925							2,212	
								5,774	
PARKING AREA									
	1925							2,076	
	1926							804	
								2,880	

WAITING STATION PLATFORM						
1901-1903	40 ft.					376
1907	Filling in around platform					-
1909	Loading platform rebuilt					-
1920	Subway under soda fountain					5,468
1926	5" concrete platform between subway and county road					256
						6,100
WATER SYSTEM						
1902-1903	Pump					1,195
1913	Tanks and Piping					4,366
1914	Deep Well					313
1930						656
1931	Deep Well					1,207
						7,737
SEWAGE SYSTEM						
1901	Cesspool					138
1906-1907						1,953
1915						1,383
1916						489
1928						759
						4,722
POWER PLANT						
1925	Expansion for new concessions					7,104
LIGHTING						
1901						124
1906						10
1909						1,259
1921						645
1926	Parking Area					172
						2,210
SUBTOTAL						49,001
BUILDINGS						
PAVILION - ORIGINAL (Destroyed by fire 1908)						
1901-1902						3,972
1901	Chairs					222
1904						315
1909	Porch Screens					877
						5,386
PAVILION 90' x 180' New 1909						
1909	Construction Cost					29,741
1923	Lunch Counter, Arc Lites, Pavilion Fountain					2,391
1925	Awnings					385
1927	Canvas Curtains					100
1929	Drinking Fountains					133
1930	Lunch Counter and Booths					3,367
						36,117

BATH HOUSE - ORIGINAL (REBUILT 1917)						
	1901-1902					2,321
	1912	Turnstile				14
	1912	Hot Water Heater				78
	1913	Driers				618
						3,031
BATH HOUSE - NEW						
	1917	Construction Cost			12,283	
	1917	Reconstruction Cost			10,975	
						23,258
	1916					18
	1918					423
	1923	Addition				5,489
	1926	AC Feeder Cable and Transformer				43
	1928	Flood Lights				221
						29,452
KITCHEN and DINING ROOM						
	1913					6,701
PICNIC GROUNDS BUILDING (pavilion)						
	1914					2,800
	1916	Check Room				94
	1917	Benches				75
	1922	Addition to building. Shed for Ford Truck. 24 Picnic Tables with 48 Benches. Corn Popper. 10 Lights on the Picnic Grounds.				2,693
	1927	Picnic Pavilion. Pop Servitor; Depot Stand. Sandwich Maker.				352
						6,014
BOWLING ALLEY						
	1901-1902					4,069
	1904					261
	1916	One Alley				83
						4,413
HELP'S QUARTERS						
	1909	Dormitory				3
	1912	New Construction				2,981
	1913	Sleeping Room				163
	1915	Addition				321
	1926	12' x 18' Addition to Employees Annex Building				255
						3,723
AMUSEMENT BUILDINGS						
	1914	New Construction				3,032
WOMEN'S TOILET						
	1909					2,788

WAITING STATION							
	1909	Station Room				235	
	1913	Station Room Partitions				39	
	1912	Waiting Station				310	
	1913	Waiting Station				584	
	1924	Depot Stand Carbonator				150	
	1926	Depot Refreshment Stand: 27' x 36' Shelter Building with					
		15' x 24' Stand.				1,769	
	1926	Equipment for Stand				225	
	1927	See PICNIC PAVILION for purchase of Sandwich Maker					
						3,312	
MEN'S TOILET							
	1912	New Construction				1,911	
REFRESHMENT COUNTER (Location not specified)							
	1901	Lunch Counter				21	
	1913					1,034	
	1924	Coney Island Lunch Counter				172	
						1,227	
ICE HOUSE							
	1901					997	
MANAGER'S OFFICE							
	1916	Office				204	
	1926	Adding Machine				100	
						304	
COTTAGE							
	1901					38	
SUBTOTAL							108,446
AMUSEMENT FEATURES							
ROLLER COASTER - ORIGINAL (Dismantled 1904)							
	1901-1902					2,835	
ROLLER COASTER BUILT 1904							
	1904	Construction Cost				9,725	
	1909	Damaged by Fire					
	1909	Clean-up after fire			1,286		
	1909	Rebuild Roller Coaster and Cars			4,429		
	1909	Reconstruction			1,032		
						6,747	
	1916	Roller Coaster Platform and Loading Platform				1,198	
	1929-1930	Fill holes under Roller Coaster				461	
						18,131	

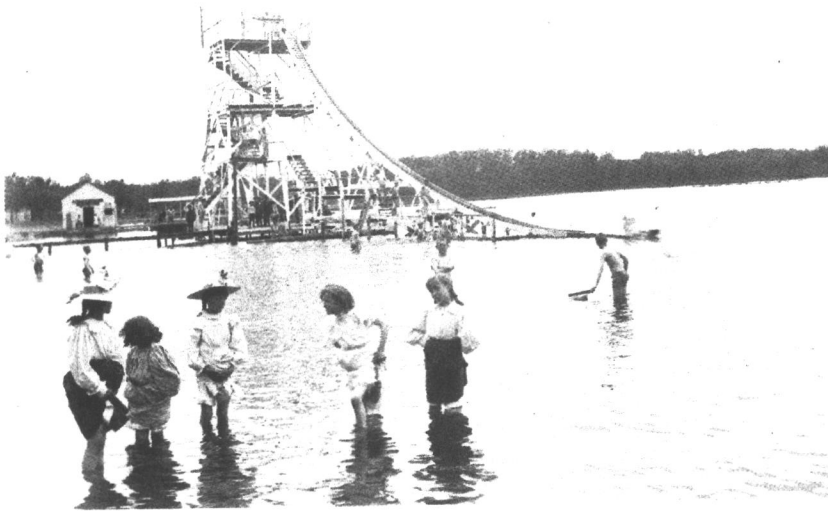
WATER TOBOGGAN							
	1901-1902	Eight cars				482	
	1912	Repair and Rebuild				397	
	1925	One Sellnar 100 ft. Slide with Tower, Trestle, Stairway, and 18 Toboggans				866	
						1,745	
DIVING PLATFORM (Water Stand or Float)							
	1901-1902					404	
	1914	Arc Lites				304	
						708	
BOATS							
	1901-1902					2,246	
	1909	60 Boats from Moore Boat Works, Wayzata				2,028	
						4,274	
CAROUSEL							
	1924	Foundation for Merry-Go-Round and Ferris Wheel				311	
	1925	Building				5,912	
						6,223	
AMUSEMENTS							
	1901	Pony Track				111	
	1904	Katzenjammer Castle				17	
	1912	Laughing Gallery (new)				2,681	
	1912	Amusements				11,126	
	1925	Five Concession Booths				1,146	
	1927	Duck Pond Equipment				225	
	1928					327	
	1929					977	
	1930					400	
	1930	Power Line to Laff-In-Dark				417	
	1931					955	
	1932					(150)	
						18,232	
		In 1927 the Tilt-A-Whirl with 9 cars was invented by Herbert Sellner [Sellnar?], Faribault, Minn., Sellner Company. Said to have installed one at Wildwood Park. Date ?					
SUBTOTAL							52,048
MISCELLANEOUS CONSTRUCTION							
	1912					1,301	
	1913					3,721	
	1913	Stable				509	
	1915					254	
	1916	Wagon Shed				139	
	1917-1918					166	
	1924					202	
							6,292
TOTAL							215,787

WILDWOOD PARK						
RETIREMENTS AND REAL ESTATE SALES 1930-1945						
CONSTRUCTION COST RETIREMENTS						
1930	Dismantle Bowling Alley Building and Remove Equipment (11 Alleys Sold)					4,413
1936	Retire Bath House destroyed by fire February 12, 1936.					
	Building			1916-1923	29,188	
	Transformer Feeder			1926	43	
	Floodlight Equipment			1928	221	
	Garment Presser			1929	75	
	Two Steel Lockers				33	
	Dance Hall Curtains				90	
	17 Water Toboggans				158	
	20 Picnic Benches				56	
	One 10 h.p. Pump and Motor (sewage)				1,020	
	One Ventilating Fan and Motor				248	
	One 18 ft. Rowboat				58	
						31,190
1938	Remove and Retire all Buildings, Sidewalks, Roadways and Fences; write down to the value of the Real Estate					103,990
Total						139,593
REAL ESTATE SALES (Large Parcels Only)						
July 1941						25,000
December 1943						6,974
1944						5,758
August 1945						8,500
Total						46,232



WILDWOOD PARK DOCK

SIGN: "BATHERS NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER DOCK"



Water toboggan. Wildwood. White Bear Lake, 1905



Katzenjammer Castle and roller coaster. Wildwood Park, 1905

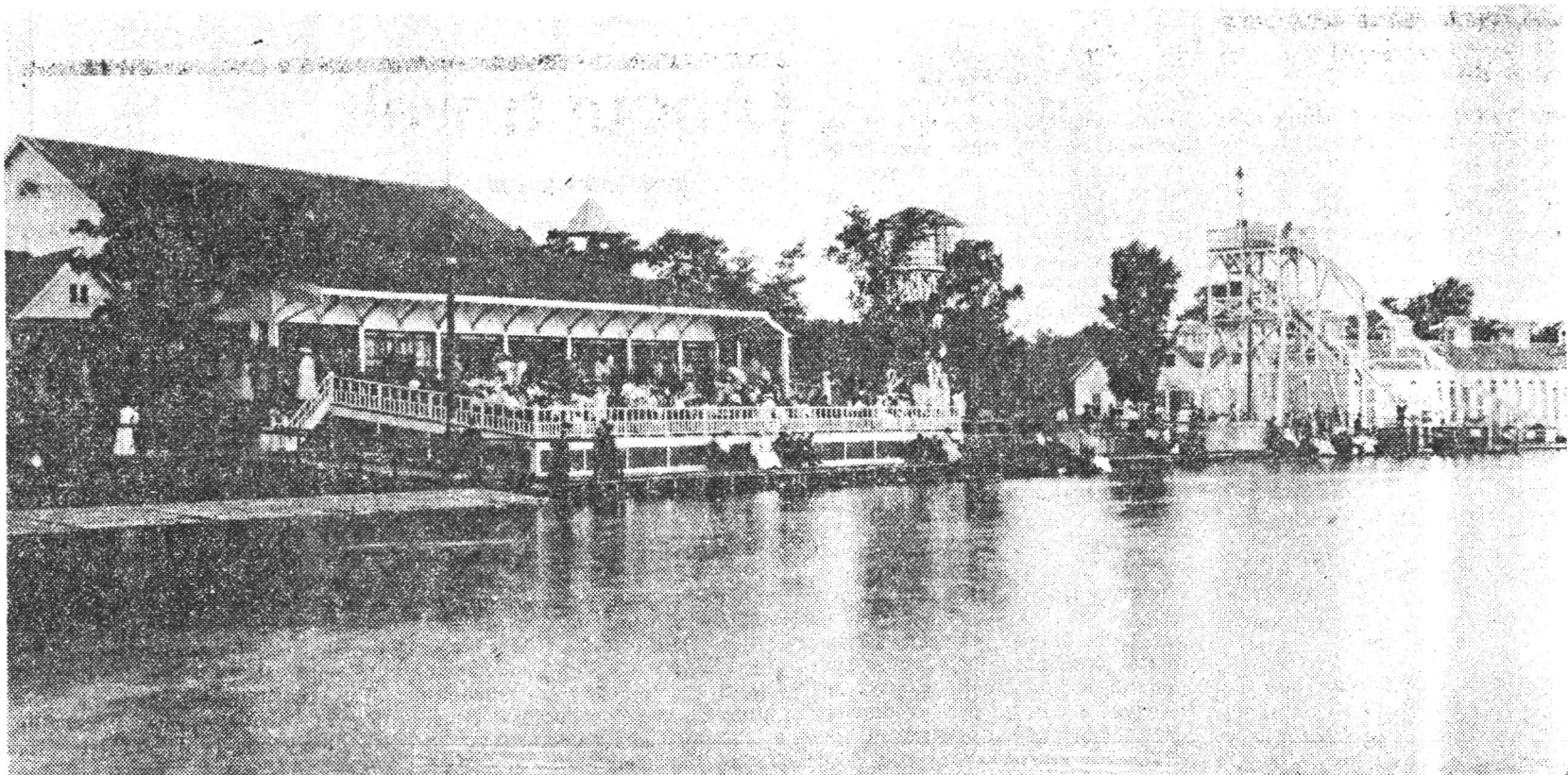
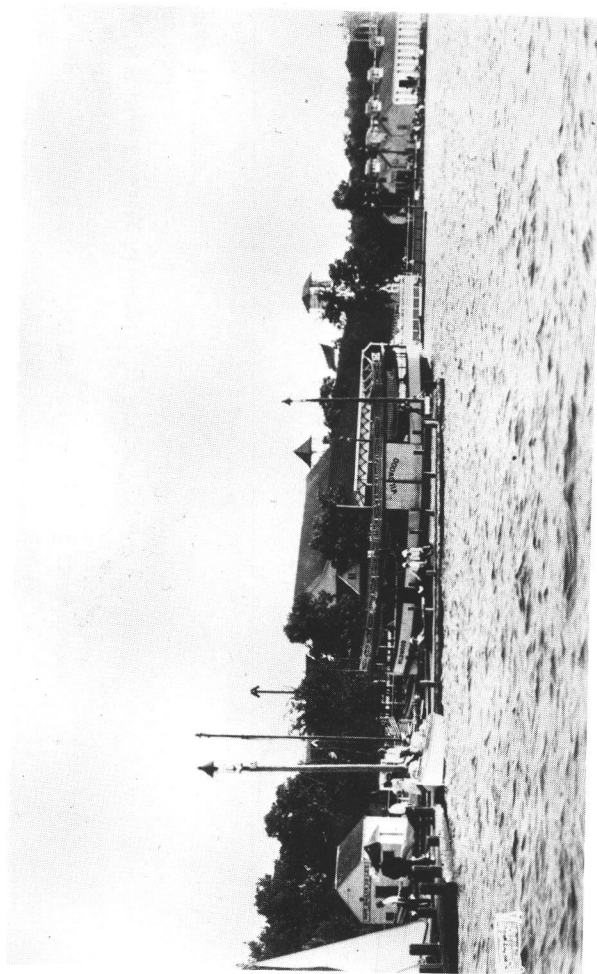
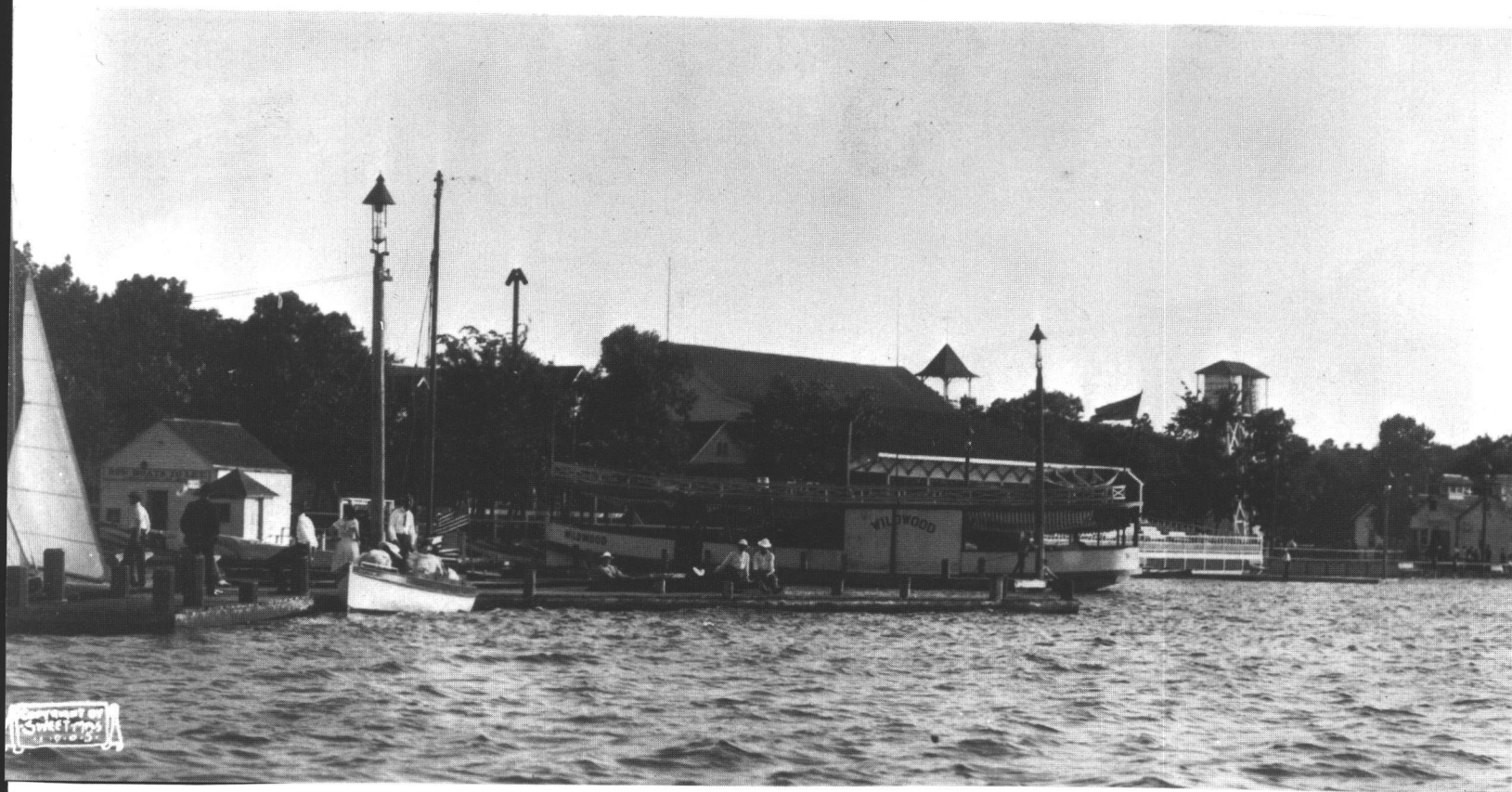


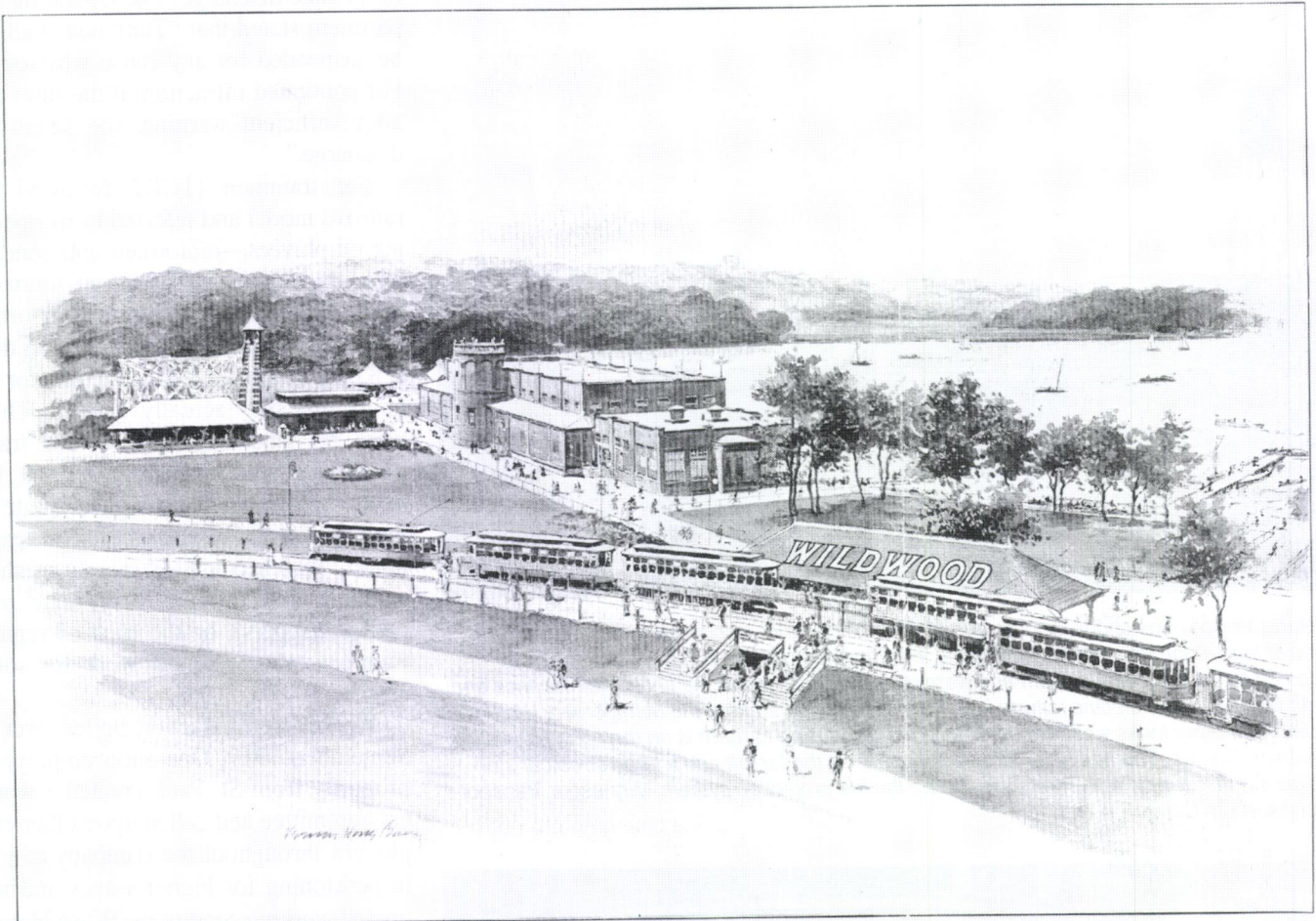
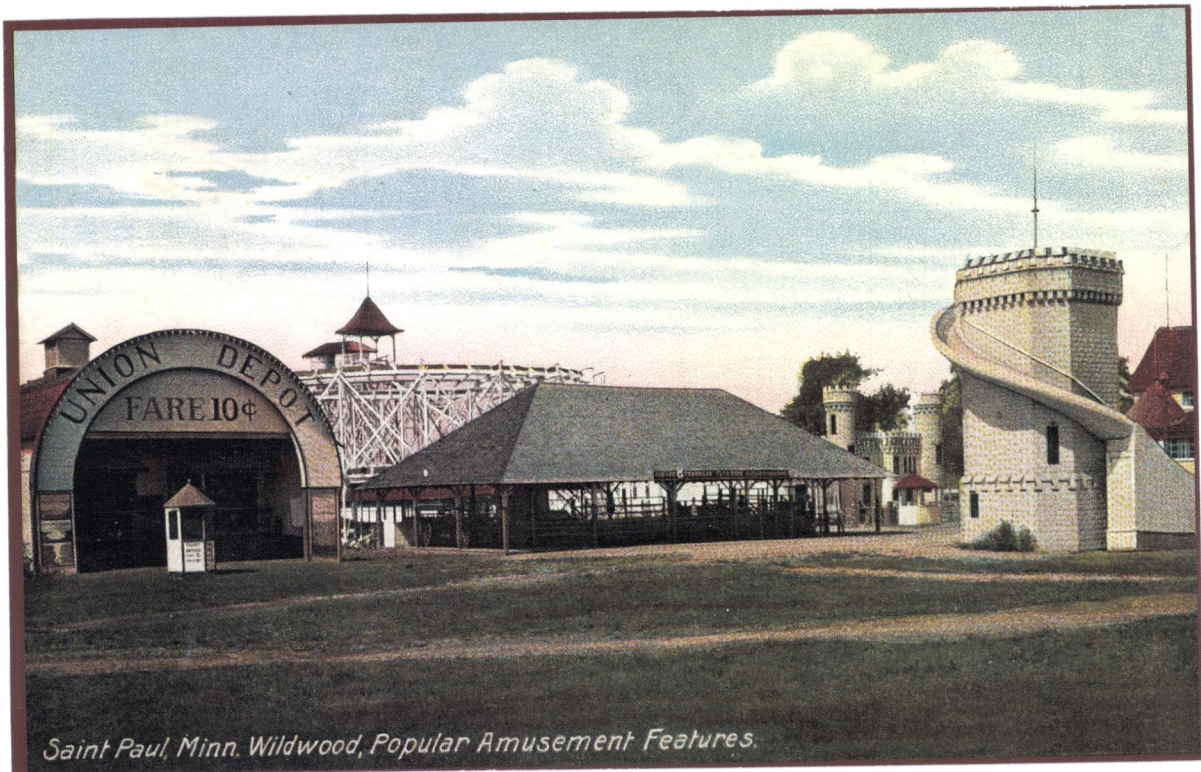
Photo courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

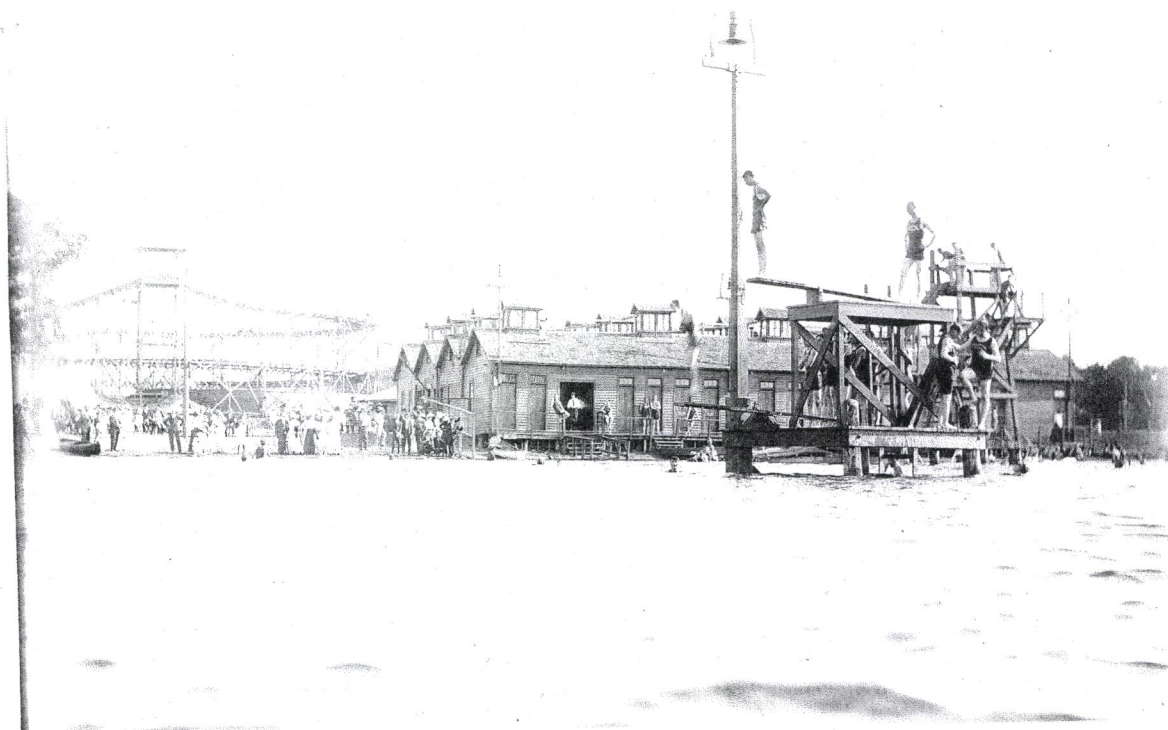
Wildwood Park pavilion and bathhouse in 1910. BEFORE 1909



Above: Early photograph of Wildwood Park on White Bear Lake, about 1905. Note the side-paddle wheel steamboat "Wildwood" at the dock. (Sweet Studios; Joe Hutchinson collection)
 Below: A view of Wildwood Park taken from the right-of-way in 1911. (Historical collection of S. D. Dimond)







WILDWOOD PARK BATH HOUSE

6-28-17

1903

251
ST. PAUL VOL. 2.

From City Rapid Transit Co.
WILLOW POWER HOUSE.
POWER STATION, 4000 KW.
WATER SUPPLYING THE CITY FROM
2 DAMS, 100 FEET IN LENGTH.

SITUATED IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINN.
1/2 MILES N.E. OF ST. PAUL COURT RD.



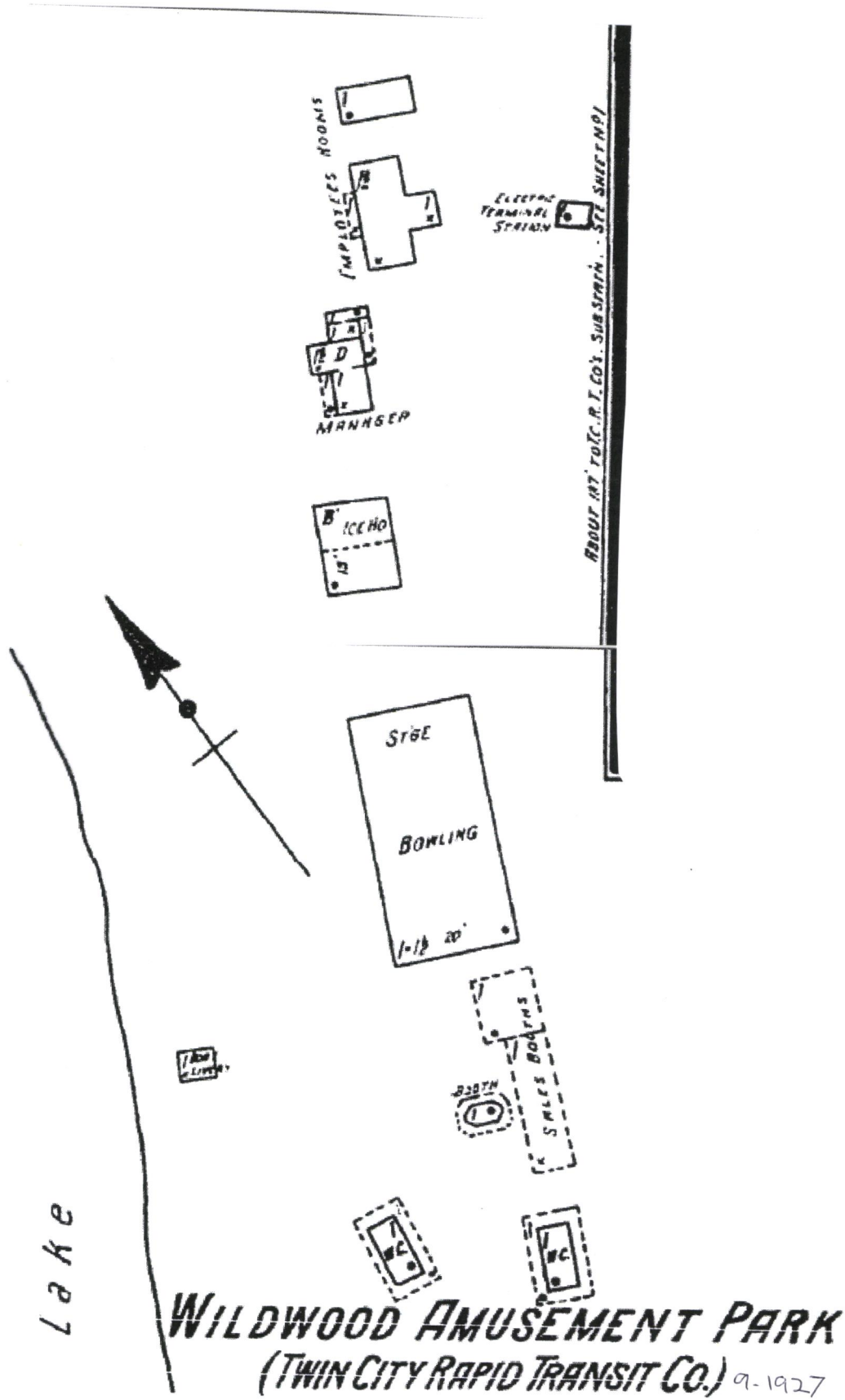
1/2 MILES TO
WHITE BEAR LAKE

WILLOW AMUSEMENT PARK
1/2 MILE DISTANCE
AND POWER IN THE AREA

MINNESOTA STATE FISH HATCHERY

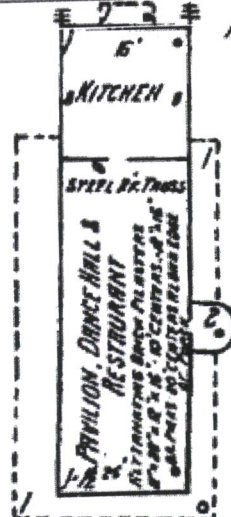
WHITE BEAR LAKE

Scale of Feet.
0 50 100 150

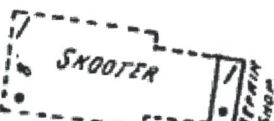
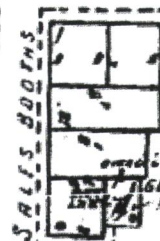


WILDWOOD AMUSEMENT PARK
(TWIN CITY RAPID TRANSIT CO.) 9-1927

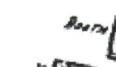
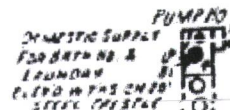
White Bear



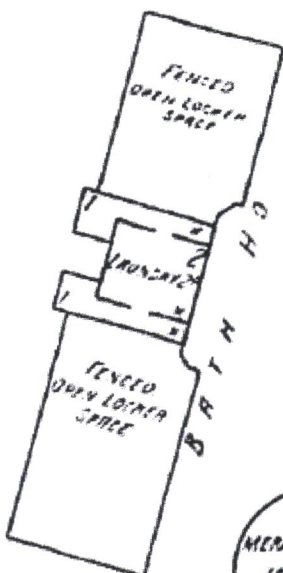
NIGHT WATCHMAN - APPROX. CLOCK - CHEMICAL EXTGRS.



COULD BE A BOMB 34 MILES FROM



Located in Washington
White Bear Lake 5 3/4 M



SCALE 100 FT. TO AN INCH



Wildwood, on the southern tip of White Bear Lake, also hosted a resort. The resort was managed by Frank J. Pilling and was touted as the "Finest Summer Resort in the Northwest". This recreational area attracted tourists such as a "large party of young ladies, and Father Gibbon and others of St. Paul, took an excursion on the lake on Leaman's launch, the *Transit* and had a picnic at Wildwood". The resort had boating, bathing, fishing, a roller coaster, skating rink, aerial slide, shooting gallery, water toboggan slides, a restaurant, music, dancing, and fireworks displays. Wildwood was especially busy on July 4th, with large crowds packing the park for the festivities. The Twin City Rapid Transit Company (TCRT) purchased Wildwood in 1898 to promote usage of its streetcars to White Bear Lake from Minneapolis and St. Paul. The TCRT invested large quantities of money to improve the park during the first years of its operation and it was a financial success. During the 1899 season, it was reported "since Wildwood, that beautiful resort at White Bear Lake has passed under the management and control of the Twin City Rapid Transit Company, it is acquiring great popularity. The Transit company has been generous in its improvements, which have included new bath houses, additions to the pavilion, new walks and above all a new and complete state for the large auditorium. The most noticeable improvement has been the betterment of the service of the Interurban line". A large fire in early August 1908 destroyed much of Wildwood that was thought to have started in the pavilion's kitchen. The pavilion, along with the "scenic railway, laughing gallery, katzenjammer castle, figure eight and one hundred row boats which were stored in the dancing pavilion" were destroyed. It was estimated the damage amounted to \$65,000 and the park was re-built. In 1912 the park's name was changed to 'Wildwood Park' to attract the former customers of Wonderland Park in Minneapolis and Big Island Park on Lake Minnetonka that had both closed in 1911. The TCRT also owned Big Island Park and some of its amusements were transferred before the 1912 opening. During its successful years, the park provided visitors with bowling alleys, row boat rental and gasoline launch rides, picnicking areas and playgrounds for children, orchestral concerts, a dance hall, and a wide variety of foods for purchase. The amusement park remained open until September 1938 (Olson 1976, 199-201; *The Lake Breeze* 1892c, 1892e; 1893a-b; *White Bear Life* 1899h, 1908, 1912b).

This 1893 advertisement for Wildwood promoted the toboggan slide in their graphic (*The Lake Breeze* 1893a).

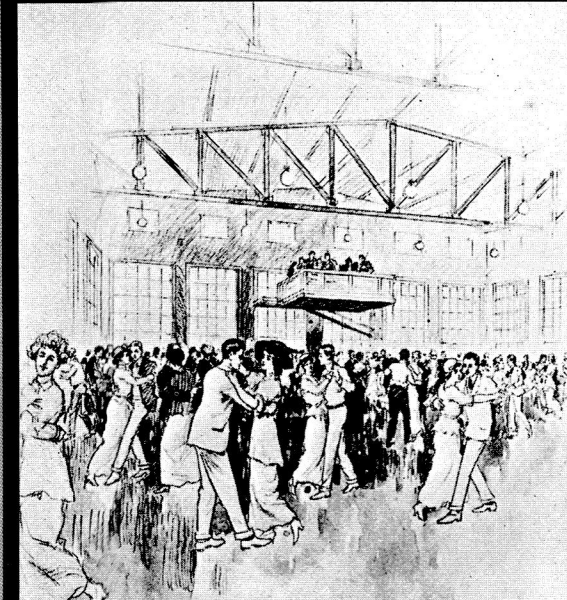




THE RESTAURANT AT WILDWOOD

Wildwood Park

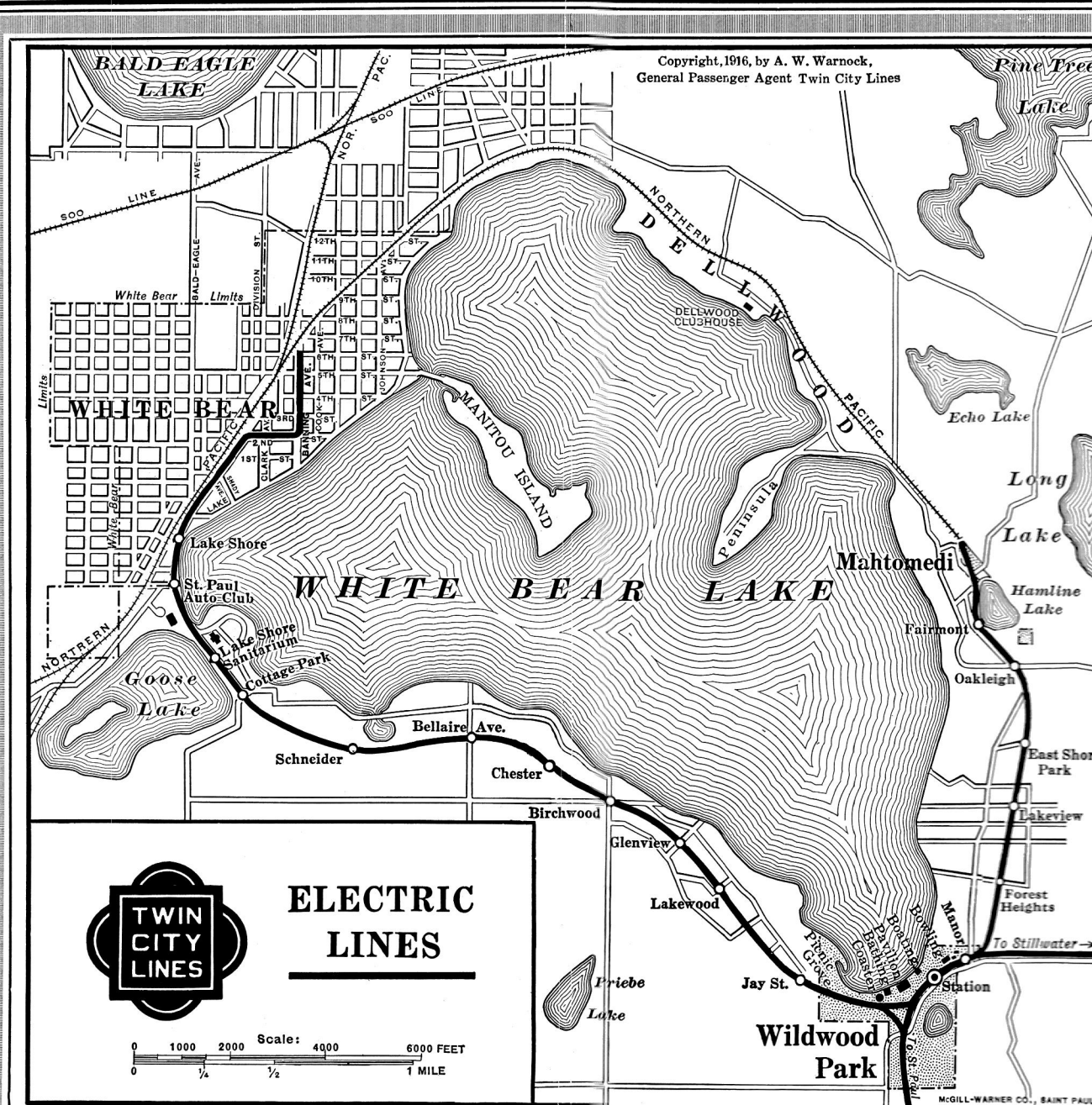
ON BEAUTIFUL
WHITE BEAR LAKE
NEAR THE TWIN CITIES



THE DANCE HALL AT WILDWOOD

Wildwood Park

ON BEAUTIFUL
WHITE BEAR LAKE
NEAR THE TWIN CITIES



HOW TO GO TO WILDWOOD PARK FROM THE TWIN CITIES

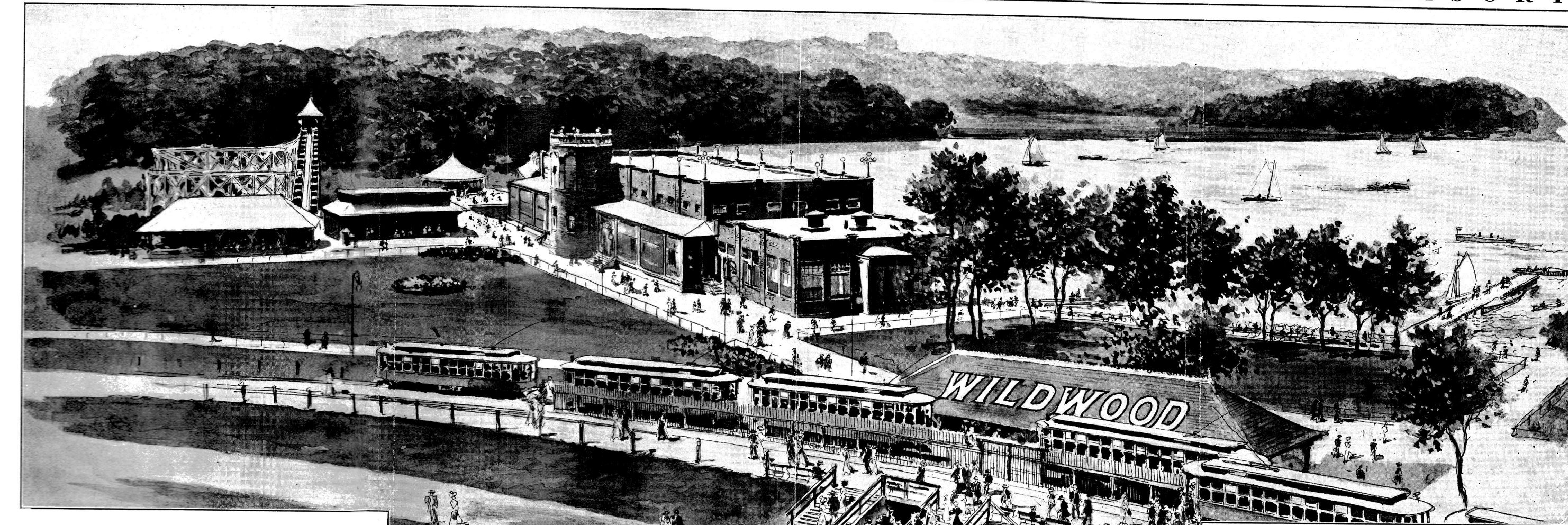
FROM ST. PAUL—Take an Electric Train at Seven Corners Terminal for Wildwood Park. Fare—Each Way, 15 Cents, or 10 Cents with transfer from any St. Paul Local Line.

FROM MINNEAPOLIS—Take any Interurban Car for St. Paul and Transfer to Train for Wildwood Park. From St. Paul & Minneapolis or Como-Harriet Lines transfer at Seventh Street. From Selby-Lake or Snelling-Minnehaha Lines transfer at Seven Corners Terminal. Fare—Each Way, 20 Cents, or 15 Cents with transfer from any Minneapolis Local Line.

Returning from Wildwood Park, passengers for Snelling-Minnehaha Cars must transfer at Duluth Avenue. To Minneapolis & St. Paul or Como-Harriet Cars, transfer is best made at Robert Street and to Selby-Lake Cars at Seven Corners Terminal.

A. W. Warnock, General Passenger Agent, Twin City Lines. Telephones—St. Paul, Cedar 2616—Minneapolis, Main 4580.

WILDWOOD PARK IS THE TWIN CITIES' IDEAL PICNIC RESORT

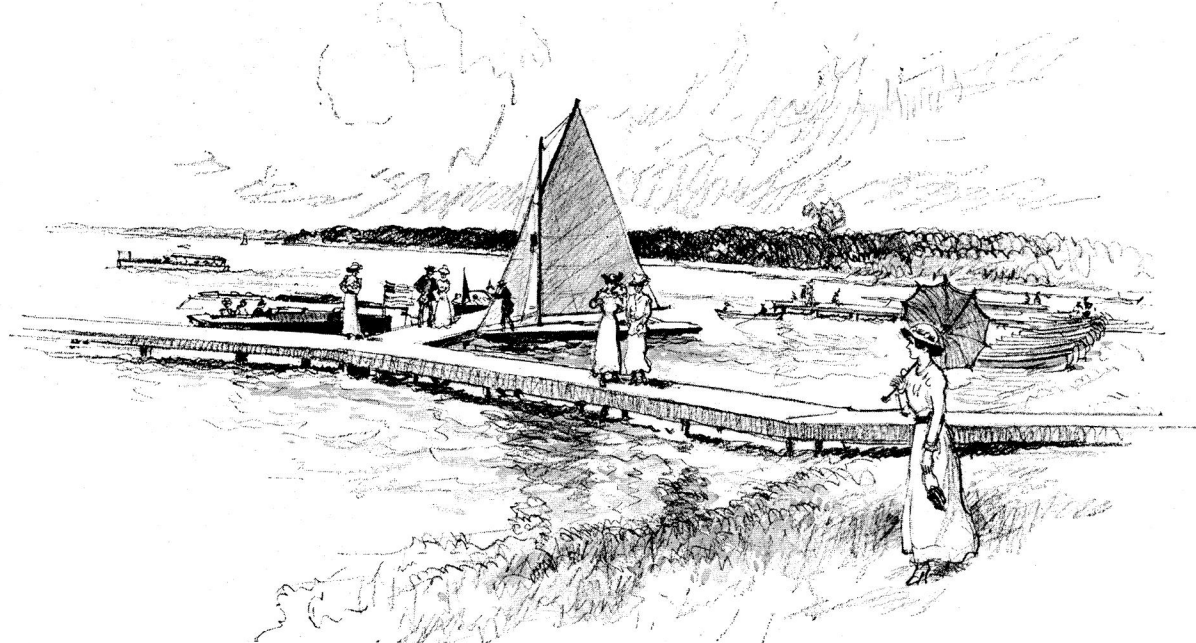


WILDWOOD PARK, on the South Shore of White Bear Lake, 12 miles from the business district of Saint Paul, is one of the most attractive resorts in the Northwest, combining all the best features of a park, lake and summer resort. Its season is from May 30 to September 1. It is under the management of Twin City Lines. Wildwood Park offers the visitor a variety of clean, wholesome entertainment.

This reproduction of a 1920's era, Twin City Rapid Transit Co. Wildwood Park brochure is an authentic souvenir of the now restored Como-Harriet line in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Last surviving segment of the once sprawling Twin City electric streetcar and interurban railway network, it operates over the old right-of-way between Lakes Calhoun and Harriet during the summer months, and was restored to service as an operating educational museum in 1971 by the Minnesota Transportation Museum in co-operation with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. In its heyday the C-H line was an integral part of the vast trolley empire whose rails stretched from the shores of Lake Minnetonka to White Bear, Stillwater and beyond. The cars shown above represent the archetype TCRT car as originally built in the Company's St. Paul Snelling shops during the period 1907 to 1917 and are contemporary with Como-Harriet cars '1300' and '265.' Wildwood Park was closed in 1938. The carline from St. Paul to Mahtomedi survived until 1951. Reproduction by H. M. Smyth Co., Inc. for Minnesota Transportation Museum.



BOATING AT BEAUTIFUL WILDWOOD PARK



Boating

WILDWOOD PARK offers fine facilities for enjoying Boating and Fishing on beautiful White Bear Lake. There is a large fleet of modern rowboats. Boats are for rent at 25 cents per hour, or fraction thereof. Special rates for use of Boats for the entire day. Gasoline Launches leave Wildwood Park Dock at frequent intervals for Lake trips, stopping at St. Paul Auto Club at Lake Shore. Single trips may be made on these Launches, or they may be chartered for special parties.

Fishing

Good Fishing equipment of all kinds, including bait, can be procured at the Wildwood Park Boat House. No charge is made for the use of fishing tackle, although a small charge is made for bait.

Restaurant

There is a most attractive Restaurant at Wildwood Park in which guests will find excellent food, with a la carte service, at reasonable prices. Fresh lake fish dinners a specialty. On Sundays and Holidays a special table d'hôte dinner is served from 11:30 A. M. to 3:00 P. M. Special dinner parties served on reasonable advance notice.

Refreshment Counters

You will find a well-equipped Refreshment Stand at the Waiting Station.

The main Refreshment Counter is in the center of the Pavilion at the entrance to the Dance Hall. All kinds of soda fountain drinks are served at City prices and of the same high quality to be found at any first class fountain.

Candy, ice cream, pop corn and cigars of highest quality are dispensed from this counter, or served to you by waiters at tables on the veranda overlooking the lake.

The Shelter Pavilion on the picnic grounds also has a Refreshment Counter, where soft drinks, sandwiches and other refreshments are served.

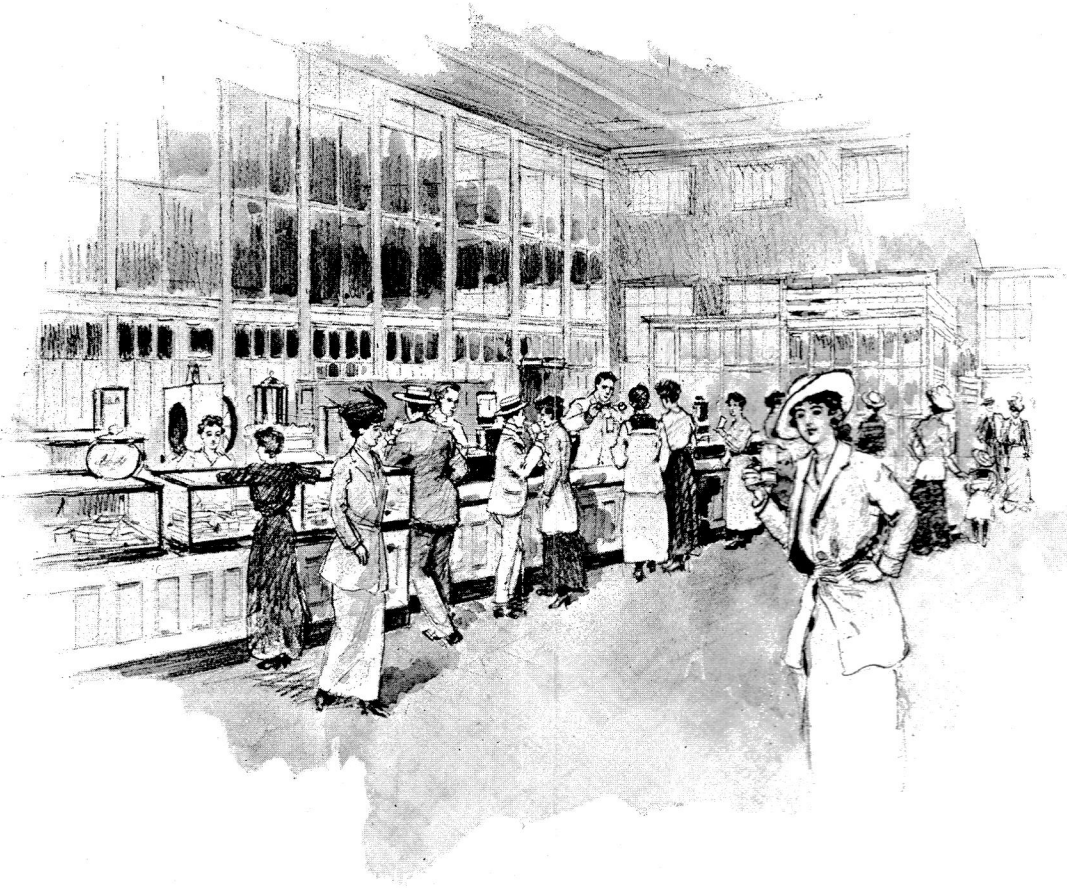
Coffee can be purchased at this stand either by the cup, or in large quantities for picnic parties. Ice cream served in five-cent cones, or by the gallon at wholesale prices. A specialty is made of serving picnic lunches to large parties.

Picnic Kitchen

A Picnic Kitchen with heated stoves and fresh water adjoins the Picnic Pavilion, so that picnic parties who desire to prepare their own lunches and coffee may do so free of charge. The Pavilion also offers an attractive



FIRST CLASS REFRESHMENTS AT MODERATE PRICES



shelter for picnic parties in inclement weather, being supplied with benches and picnic tables for persons wishing to eat their lunches there.

Picnic Grounds

Wildwood Park has a wonderfully attractive Picnic Grove along the picturesque shore of White Bear Lake. Beautiful trees and well-kept lawns offer many places to enjoy rest and recreation. Playground outfits for children are provided, and comfortable swings are scattered through the grounds—always enjoyed by young and old alike. There is a good place on the picnic ground to play indoor baseball, and near the Railway Station is a baseball diamond on which a regular game can be played.

Bathing and Water Sports

Wildwood Park has one of the finest bathing beaches in the Northwest. There are several Water Sport

Devices, including Water Chute and Diving Platform with several spring boards at various heights. On Sundays and Holidays special programs of water sports are given, including Baseball played on water, Water Polo, Diving Exhibitions and Swimming Matches. Private swimming lessons are given by competent instructors at moderate prices.

There are clean, well-kept Bath Houses for ladies. A comfortable rest room is provided, in charge of a competent matron, to look out for the welfare of women and children. Ladies' garments are rented at following rates: Suits 25 cents, stockings 10 cents, caps 15 cents. Patrons providing their own suits will be charged 25 cents for the use of their room which includes bath towels.

Men's and boy's suits may also be obtained at the Bath House. Men's suits 25 cents, small boys' suits 15 cents. Same rates for those providing their own suits entitling each person to a room provided with



IDEAL PICNIC GROUNDS AT WILDWOOD PARK



bath towels. Park benches are placed on the Lake Shore for those who wish to enjoy the water scenes and sports.

Dancing

There is a splendid Dance Hall in the Main pavilion with promenade overlooking the Lake. Excellent orchestral music is furnished. High Class Dancing is to be enjoyed every Weekday from 2:30 to 5:00 P. M. and from 8:00 to 10:30 P. M. Exhibition dances are given from time to time. Each person pays an admission fee of 10 cents for the entire afternoon or evening, including checking room privilege, except on May 30 and July 4 when slightly increased prices prevail. Ordinarily a list of 15 dances is offered each afternoon and evening with an intermission of 20 minutes.

Free Orchestral Concerts

Are given on Sundays from 3:00 to 5:00 P. M. and from 8:00 to 10:30 P. M. on the veranda.

Bowling

A large building contains 11 well-equipped alleys. A charge of 10 cents is made per person per game.

Roller Coaster

Wildwood Park has a jolly Roller Coaster, always enjoyed by "kids" of all ages. It is a sensational and exhilarating ride. Per ride per person, 5 cents.

Fun Factory

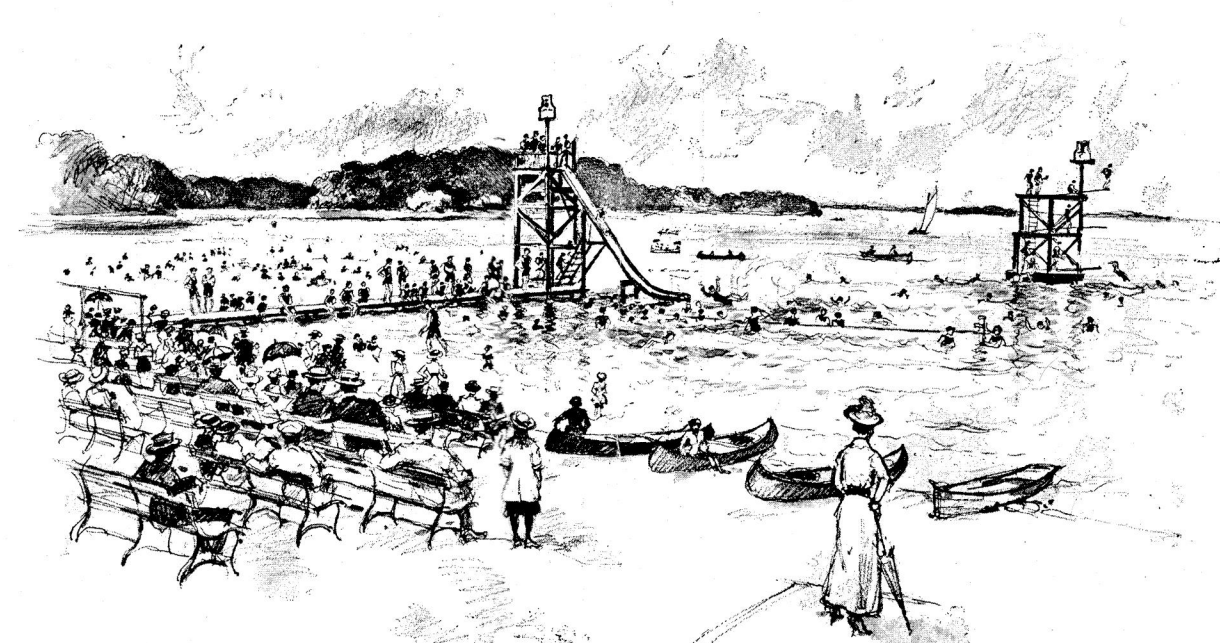
With its various mirrors, is always a good place to enjoy a hearty laugh. Admission, adults 10 cents, children 5 cents.

Postal Photo Gallery

Where pictures are taken while you wait. A specialty is made of taking picnic parties in small or panoramic



SPLENDID BATHING BEACH AT WILDWOOD PARK



groups. No outside photographers are allowed on the grounds. A special rate is made for postcards of three for 25 cents. Rates for large groups given on application.

Shooting Gallery

With moving figures and targets. Modern rifles. Two shots for 5 cents, 12 shots for 25 cents.

Penny Arcade

Contains phonograph and picture machines, lifting machines, weighing machines, and all modern novelties which make an up-to-date penny parlor.

Amusement Devices

Throwing balls at dolls and figures as well as throwing rings for canes and knives always affords fun for people out for a summer day's outing.

Carrousel

With its gaily-colored horses, lions, and giraffes, is alluring to the children, while comfortable seats are provided for adults who do not care to ride on "animals." An organ plays popular airs, a never-ending delight for carrousel patrons.

The Place for Family Parties

In short, Wildwood Park is an exceptional place for the enjoyment of family parties. There are cement walks, beautiful flowers, an abundance of trees and well-kept grassy lawns. Everything about the Park is as clean as industry can make it. Wildwood Park is an attractive place, a clean place, a beautiful place, and parents may feel assured their children are in good surroundings when at Wildwood. The grounds are well policed at all times, insuring safety and good order.

Automobile Parties

Will find good parking facilities for their cars. A moderate charge is made for owners wishing to check their cars on the parking grounds.

Conventions and Large Parties

A specialty is made of entertaining large picnic parties representing the employees of retail and wholesale firms, lodges, clubs and conventions from St. Paul, Minneapolis and Stillwater.

For detailed information please call the Park Department, Cedar 2616 St. Paul, Bomont 1919 Wildwood Park, or Main 4580 Minneapolis.